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# THE JERUSALEM POST

**TUNE TO THE BACKWEB**  
THE JERUSALEM POST CHANNEL

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**The New York Times**  
8-page supplement

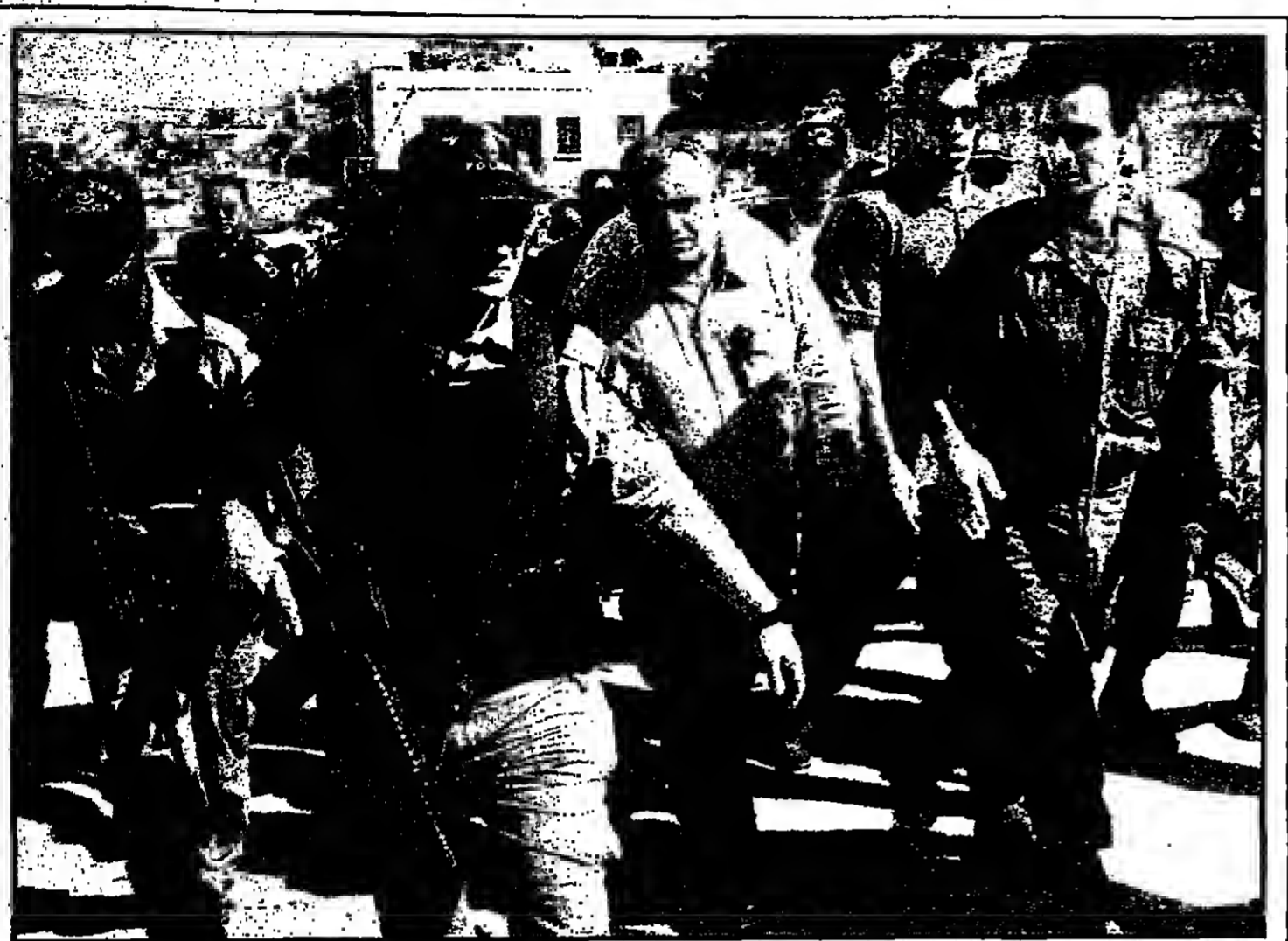
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**Beneath the smiles at the summit**  
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**Mordechai visits Hebron**  
Surrounded by soldiers and security men, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai (center) walks down the main street in the Jewish section of Hebron yesterday. Story, Page 2. (Reuters)

## Coalition MKs threaten to vote no-confidence

**By LIAT COLLINS**  
A number of factions in the coalition are threatening to support tomorrow's no-confidence motions, following a series of meetings yesterday.

Chairman Roman Bronfman had called on his party colleagues to vote against the government. MK Zvi Weinberg said unless Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu accepts the party's demands, he could find himself without a coalition. Weinberg later conferred with Netanyahu by phone and told him that Yisrael Ba'aliya is likely to support the

out of the coalition" still holds. Eitan apparently said committees would be established to look into implementing the demands, but Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs said their demands are promises which had been made when the coalition was formed and should therefore be implemented immediately. Yisrael Ba'aliya plans to meet again with Eitan before the vote and

### Livnat: I will not defend PM

**By MICHAEL YUDELMAN**

Communications Minister Limor Livnat stepped down from her post as liaison between the cabinet and the Knesset "because I will not and cannot defend the prime minister's functioning in various matters and certainly not in the [Dan] Meridor affair," she said yesterday on Army Radio. She would not predict whether this government would last until the end of its term or whether she would remain in it until then, but reiterated that she has no intention, at this stage, of resigning from the cabinet. The meeting was called to discuss Yisrael Ba'aliya's demand to implement projects the party said it has been promised, such as an absorption program for immigrant scientists and public housing for immigrants.

early to discuss this, "but in Israeli politics, everything is possible." Meridor, who resigned as finance minister last week, told Army Radio that he may challenge Netanyahu for the party leadership and the premiership. However, he said he would not leave the Likud to do so, "because the Likud was and remains my home." Meridor said he was flooded by hundreds of telephone calls and telegrams over the weekend, many of them from Likud members, commending him on his decision to resign, and supporting his motives. He refused to say whether he would vote against the government in tomorrow's no-confidence motion, saying only, "It's a known fact that I have no confidence in the prime minister."

is also in touch with Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office. Eitan said the efforts to find a solution to Yisrael Ba'aliya's demands would continue. He repeated his newly coined description of the coalition: "From crisis to crisis, our strength increases." Meanwhile, the Third Way executive called for a national unity government. "Only a national unity government will avoid a split in the nation and stop the blackmail which is paralyzing the government's actions," the faction declared. Tsomet also is expected to meet before the no-confidence motion to discuss its response to the possible cabinet reshuffle and other coalition matters.

## Court bars croc wrestling

**By LIAT COLLINS**  
In the latest round of the three-year fight over crocodile wrestling, the crocodiles won. The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a petition by the Lei the Animals Live organization and agreed that performances, in which young crocodiles or alligators are grabbed from the water by their tails, flipped on their backs, and have their jaws forcibly opened are likely to cause suffering. The court said that such performances are banned under the Anti-Cruelty to Animals Law, which specifically bars pitting animals against each other or against humans. The group won a case against Hamat Gader in May 1995, which was overturned the following February. The ruling was upheld by the three-justice panel yesterday. The management of Hamat Gader maintained that there is no proof that the animals suffered anything more than discomfort. Hamat Gader general manager Roni Lotan claimed that the shows were "educational." The "matches" are always between carefully selected young animals

to ensure the human wins, and the grappling part lasts only about 47 seconds. Bat, said Lei the Animals Live spokeswoman Etti Altman, that is 47 seconds of physical and mental suffering and stress. "Even crocodiles have rights," she said. "It's a victory. I finally feel that something is moving in the field of animal rights in this country. I am grateful to the justices who saw fit to end this cruelty." "And I am proud that we have managed to ban crocodile wrestling in Israel, when it still goes on in Florida," said Altman. "I guess we have become, in at least this area, more enlightened than the United States." Altman said the case set a precedent that could be used against circuses and other spectator events involving animals in captivity. Justice Mishael Cheshin did not rule out teaching backpackers how to deal with alligators as part of a survival program, but ruled it is not permissible as entertainment. Hamat Gader was ordered to pay the group NIS 10,000 to cover legal costs.

## Pupils' math, science add up to mediocrity

**By JUDY SEGEL**

Seven months after Israeli seventh and eighth graders gave a mediocre performance in math and science tests compared to pupils in 44 other countries, third- and fourth-grade pupils have been found to do no better. The Education Ministry's chief scientist, Prof. Zemira Mevarech, said yesterday that she is "very worried" by Israel's standing in the Third International Math and Science Study (TIMSS). "I don't want to plaster over the results, but the ministry has to study them carefully to find out whether pupils really lag behind in their knowledge, or if other factors can explain the disappointing performance, such as differences in curriculum," she said. The TIMSS rating is carried out at an international study center at Boston College. A representative sample of nearly one million pupils took the tests in 1994/5 in their own schools and in their own language. In addition to the tests in lower and middle grades, the pupils, teachers, and principals were

asked questions about their backgrounds, attitudes, experiences, and practices in the teaching and learning of math and science. In both the lower and middle grade results, there were no simple correlations between pupil performance and a variety of variables, including the amount of homework, number of pupils in the classroom, length of the school day or year, or even the amount of time spent learning math and science. It is increasingly clear that no single factor can be properly considered in isolation from others, the organizers said. However, having strong educational resources at home, including a computer, dictionary, one's own study desk, and 100 or more books, were strongly related to math and science achievement in nearly every country. Among third and fourth graders, Singapore, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, and Austria were at the top of the list in math. Korea was the top-performing country in the younger grades in science.

## Cabinet reshuffle likely to be delayed

**By MICHAEL YUDELMAN**

Growing internal strife over Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's plans to reshuffle the cabinet is likely to delay the planned presentation of his new team to the Knesset tomorrow. The proposed reshuffle is causing tension and unrest among the coalition partners, which have been engaged in intensive activity to decide on their respective positions and demands vis-a-vis the changes. The uncertainty of whether former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman is returning to the cabinet and the contradictory rumors concerning his position are adding to the tension. The Prime Minister's Office yesterday denied reports that Ne'eman had declined Netanyahu's offer to return to the cabinet. This was after senior National Religious Party politicians called Ne'eman, and then advised Netanyahu that he denied having turned down the offer. Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazzak said he had spoken to Ne'eman in the afternoon, and the latter confirmed that Netanyahu had officially offered him the chance to return to the cabinet. Ne'eman said he promised to give the prime minister his answer, Bazzak said. Netanyahu's attempts to keep the details of the reshuffle a secret until tomorrow are

intended to prevent last-minute pressure from coalition partners, party sources said. The coalition partners held intensive meetings yesterday to decide on their demands. Some claim the addition of two Likud ministers disrupts the balance set in the coalition agreement between the Likud and its coalition partners. MK Hanan Porat (NRP), whose faction is demanding Ne'eman be reinstated as justice minister, as he was promised when he resigned, said if Ne'eman receives a formal and respectable proposal from the prime minister to return to his post at the Justice Ministry, he would do so. Porat is acting to form a religious-haredi front which will issue a joint demand to reappoint Ne'eman justice minister. Porat has called a meeting of the religious and haredi factions tomorrow. Porat blasted Tzahi Haneghi for "holding onto the Justice Ministry which was given to him... only until Ne'eman returns." Channel 2 reported last night that Ne'eman told senior religious politicians that he will fight to get back the Justice portfolio, while at the same time intimating to those close to him that he is not interested in any cabinet post. Ne'eman, Channel 2 said, is interested in getting back at Haneghi, who attacked

him at Likud gatherings for not being part of the Likud and therefore not deserving of the Justice Ministry. If Ne'eman decides not to return to the cabinet, then National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon is to take over the Finance Ministry; Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav is to replace Sharon; Health Minister Yehoshua Matza will be moved, at his request, to the Tourism Ministry; MK Silvan Shalom will be appointed health minister; and MK Michael Eitan will take over the Science Ministry, which has been left without a minister since Ze'ev Begin's resignation five months ago. Sharon's expected appointment as finance minister is arousing concern in the cabinet. It is said that Netanyahu wants to put Sharon in this key position to block Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's increasing popularity. Mordechai and Foreign Minister David Levy met yesterday for what was planned as a secret meeting, reportedly to discuss the new appointment and how it may affect their status in the cabinet. The two are also reportedly worried that Sharon's positions are much more hawkish than theirs. But Mordechai's spokesman Avi Benayahu said the meeting was routine and did not deal with the political appointments.

## Sinead O'Connor: I was unaware of volatility of Jerusalem issue

**By DAVID BRINN**

Sinead O'Connor was not aware that the Bat Shalom concert in support of sharing Jerusalem, at which she was to appear last week, was going to turn into such a volatile issue. "If I had known it would be so controversial, and it was going to end up with my life being threatened, I wouldn't have agreed to perform," she told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday, in her first response to the affair.

O'Connor canceled her appearance, which was supposed to have taken place last Saturday night, in support of Bat Shalom and the concept "Two capitals for two states," after the British Embassy received a phone call threatening her life. "I was approached by a Palestinian women's group to do a concert for peace in Jerusalem. I'm 100 percent in support of sharing Jerusalem," she said, adding that she thought it was a universal theme which had widespread support. "I don't live in Israel, and I'm

not interested in getting involved in its internal politics. I have nothing but love for the Jewish and the Palestinian people, and I feel sorry for the children growing up in a war-torn country. I also come from a war-torn country," the Irish singer said in a phone conversation from London. O'Connor refuted claims by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert that the concert had been canceled due to lack of ticket sales. "If I wasn't going to sell a lot of tickets, then the death threat would not have [been] made in the

first place," she said. Over the weekend, O'Connor sent an open letter to Itamar Ben-Gvir, a right-wing extremist who had bragged he had scared the Irish singer away. "God does not reward those who bring terror to the children of the world. So you have succeeded in nothing but your soul's failure," O'Connor wrote. Ben-Gvir is a member of the Ideological Front, an offshoot of the outlawed Kach movement. O'Connor jokingly issued a "formal complaint" that the death threat was directed to the British Embassy and not the Irish Embassy. "He knew I was popular; he just didn't know where I was from," she said.



Sinead O'Connor (Shaul Rehaimim)



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# NEWS

in brief

## Thai worker dies after eating poisonous plant

A Thai worker, who last week ate a poisonous plant thinking it was a spice he recognized from his country, died yesterday in Hasharon Hospital in Petah Tikva.

## 1 killed, 19 hurt on roads

A woman was killed and two people lightly injured at the Yokne'am junction, when the woman swerved out of her lane for unknown reasons and her car hit an army truck head-on.

Seventeen people were hurt in three different accidents in Safed area. Eleven were lightly hurt when the van they were riding in overturned near the Korazim junction. In Kfar Gush Halav, two people were hurt when their all-terrain vehicle overturned. And four people were hurt in a two-car collision near Safed. The 17 were all brought to Safed's Rebecca Sieff Hospital within a short time span, creating heavy pressure on the hospital's emergency room.

## Slain soldier to be buried today, probe continues

Staff-Sgt. Alfred Cohen, the 20-year-old soldier shot dead by another soldier on Friday during a fight over the use of a telephone, is to be buried in his hometown of Dimona this evening. The IDF said that the Military Police are still investigating the murder and declined to release any further details.

## Hebron Jews deny US official's remarks

Remarks made by a senior US official on Friday that the recent violent clashes between Palestinians and IDF troops in Hebron are "a plausible safety valve" drew sharp criticism from the Hebron Jewish community yesterday.

"Is this the stand of an impartial peace broker supposed to be assisting in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians?" asked Hebron Jewish community spokesman David Wilder, who called the remarks biased, and said that their tone is one of contempt and disdain for the Jews living in Hebron.

Wilder said he would like to know how the framework of legitimate "venting of anger" can be defined.

## Man killed in fall

A unidentified man in his 30s, thought to be Jewish, apparently fell to his death from the scaffolding of a construction site in Jerusalem's Givat Shaul section yesterday. His body was taken to the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir.

## Uri Zohar asks for a break

The *Uri Zohar 2* program to be broadcast on Channel 1 on Thursday night will be the last of the summer. After the show was taped on Sunday, Zohar asked the Israel Broadcasting Authority for a break so he could prepare his fall shows, and the IBA agreed.

# Interns for Peace going ahead with program in areas

By DAVID RUDGE

The Palestinian and Israeli branches of Interns for Peace are going ahead with a program in Gaza and the West Bank aimed at promoting peace through prosperity and democracy — despite rising tension and violence in the region.

A conference on "community development and human resources training" should have taken place last September but was deferred because of the armed clashes between Palestinians and the IDF at the time.

"We hope and pray that there won't be any disturbances this time that would cause a further deferment," said Rahbi Bruce Cohen, international director of Interns for Peace.

The non-profit organization

helps promote Jewish-Arab coexistence through community development projects.

The Palestinian Interns for Peace has organized the three-day conference which is due to open in Gaza City today.

"The aim of the conference, which we expect several hundred people to attend, is to discuss and draw up plans to democratically involve Palestinian youth, women, and unemployed people in the process of improving Palestinian society in general and the economy in particular," said Cohen.

The conference, the first in a series of steps aimed at helping Palestinians to help themselves, also is slated to discuss plans to establish an Interns for Peace community center in Beit Lahia in the Gaza Strip.

# Mordechai visits Hebron, Morag

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai visited both Hebron and Morag in Gush Katif yesterday to review the IDF presence and inspect the current security arrangements. Both Gush Katif and Hebron have been the scene of violent riots during the past 10 days, although yesterday, for the first time in a week, there were no reports of rioting in Hebron.

Mordechai was accompanied by Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan. Mordechai, who instructed the troops to deploy for further

unrest said during his visit to Hebron that "if the actions of the army, Border Police, and General Security Service continue as they are, and the Palestinian Authority understands what kind of damage can be caused, then it will be able to prevent the spread of incidents."

A report on Arutz 7 yesterday claimed that Ahmed Qurie, Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, told an Arabic-language newspaper that the confrontations of the last few days in Hebron will continue to spread gradually to other areas of Judea and Samaria, and warned that "an explosion is bound to

come, but this time the explosion will be different than the other times."

Due to reports of a possible escalation in violence in Judea and Samaria, the IDF has beefed up its presence, and tanks and armored cars are stationed outside Nabhus.

According to the Hebron Jewish community, no one was informed of Mordechai's visit and therefore no meeting took place with him.

Arutz 7 said Palestinian journalists were initially banned from attending a press conference held by Mordechai. But after Israeli journalists refused to attend, they were the allowed in.

In Morag, settlers were upset

when Mordechai refused to meet them and discuss the situation concerning the fence that surrounds the hothouses, which has been the scene of clashes recently. Palestinians who set up a protest tent outside the settlement have torn down the fence and stoned hothouses.

According to Gush Katif spokesman Shlomo Kostiner, Gush Katif Regional Council head Aharon Tsar and settlers had organized food and beverages, as well as baskets full of locally grown tomatoes, to offer the guests. Kostiner said that only after local journalists intervened Mordechai did agree to talk to the settlers, and

he promised to meet with them in the near future.

"We hope he will keep his promise, as it is inconceivable that a minister visits the area to learn about the situation and doesn't even meet with settlers to hear their point of view," Kostiner said.

He added that he hoped the IDF would not bow to Palestinian pressure to move the monument erected at the Gush Katif junction in memory of soldier Yossi Levy, who was killed in rioting that broke out last September after the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit.

Arieh O'Sullivan contributed to this report.



## Palestinian Police quell Ramallah riot

A Palestinian policeman yesterday uses his nightstick to disperse dozens of people throwing stones and bottles outside a Ramallah courthouse after fights broke out between relatives of nine men being tried for the murder of alleged collaborators and the relatives of the victims. Police also fired in the air. There were no casualties, but 10 were arrested.

# Mordechai denies Israel is barring 20 senior PA officials

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Israel yesterday denied reports that it has a list of 20 senior Palestinian officials, including ministers and members of the legislative council, that it was barring from entering the country or moving between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said, however, said steps could be taken to prevent clashes and called on the Palestinian Authorities to rein in demonstrators.

After a week of violence, Mordechai visited Hebron yesterday, and found it quiet after a week of violence.

"It is very important that this [violence] comes to an end and the atmosphere returns to a one of calm," Mordechai said. "I hope that the Palestinian Authority and other forces on the ground use all their influence to prevent needless clashes which have caused casualties, mainly on the Palestinian side, and cause the disruption of the daily lives of the Palestinians."

Israel Radio said Israel was invalidating the VIP passes of the Palestinian officials for inciting the riots in Hebron. These included Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein, Agriculture Minister Abdel Jawad and Hamas supporter Imad Faluji, Army radio said. Marwan Kanafani, an adviser to PLO head Yasser



Freih Abu Medein (Gideon Markowicz)

Arafat, criticized any action on the VIP passes.

"It is extremely dangerous to start controlling the political conditions of the Palestinians by depriving them of certain privileges that are needed to go about their functions and responsibilities," said Kanafani.

But Mordechai denied that Israel was considering such a ban. After visiting the Machpela Cave and taking a stroll down Stuhada Street, Mordechai told reporters that Israel was certainly aware of members of the PA who are doing "incorrect" things.

"And if needed, we take steps [against them]," Mordechai said. "But it's not true that there is an intention to take any kind of action

against 20 members of the Palestinian Authority."

Officials close to the coordinator of activities in the territories, Maj.-Gen. Ya'akov Orr, said that he knows nothing of any plan to recall the passes of Palestinian VIPs, but noted that it was Israel's right to do so. He said that any such decision would have to be approved by the Prime Minister's Office.

Israel has handed out 480 VIP passes in three categories: The highest is for ministers and senior Palestinian Authority officials. It allows them free passage through all roadblocks and permits them to enter Israel in their own car, accompanied by a driver and an armed guard, without being checked.

The second classification is for high-level officials who can bring a car and driver, but need to give prior notice of their crossing into any Israeli-controlled area. The third VIP pass is for Palestinians fulfilling vital functions, like hospital directors. But they are not allowed to enter Israeli-controlled territory in their own cars, and need to give prior notice and receive permission to cross.

Earlier this month, Israel revoked the entrance permit of Palestinian intelligence officer Col. Tawfik Tirawi for reported involvement in the murders of three Arab land dealers and the attempted kidnapping of a fourth.

## COALITION

Continued from Page 1

National Religious Party faction chairman Hanan Porat has said his party is demanding Ya'acov Ne'eman be reinstated as justice minister. The NRP is expected to meet with Shas and United Torah Judaism today to jointly repeat this demand.

Meanwhile, Likud MKs Ze'ev Begin, Dan Meridor and David Re'em, and Gesher's David Magen also are planning a "rebellion" — they are considering not showing up for the no-confidence motion.

The opposition is mobilizing in an attempt to topple the Netanyahu government in the no-confidence motions due to be heard tomorrow. Although the motions need an absolute majority of 61 MKs to pass, which they are unlikely to get, they could cause another blow to the government's image, given the number of coalition MKs who are threatening to absent themselves, abstain, or even vote against Netanyahu.

The motions were submitted by Labor, Meretz, Hadash, and the Democratic Arab Party. Although no-confidence motions are usually heard on Mondays, an exception has been made this week because the Likud's internal elections are scheduled on that day.

Both Eitan and Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen have called on MKs to return from abroad for the vote and announced the cancellation of all "pairing-off" agreements between absent opposition and coalition MKs.

# El-Baz to return this week

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Egyptian peace envoy Osama el-Baz will return to Israel by the end of this week, senior officials said yesterday, to renew his effort to bring Israeli and Palestinian negotiators back to the bargaining table.

His latest initiative coincides with a report in the London-based daily *Al-Hayar* that a new plan proposed by Egypt would transfer 40 percent of the West Bank to the control of the Palestinian Authority.

The plan also was said to call for the resumption of "security coordination" by Israelis and Palestinians with Egypt joining them as a third party.

In a sharp and unequivocal reaction, David Bar-Ilan, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's director of information, dismissed these ideas as non-starters.

"We might as well quit," he said. "There cannot be pre-conditioned negotiations. They want us to accept terms before we sit down and talk."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told an Army Radio interviewer that "the gap between the two sides still is very wide." Speaking in English, Moussa said that "the problem of the settlements is very deep and very serious."

Asked about the possibility of a settlement freeze, Moussa said: "Of course, the problem was caused by that and it continues to be the settlement policy. We hope that this policy will be reconsidered in order for a better climate to be created and for the negotiation to be resumed."

He mentioned the Har Homa housing project in Jerusalem, repeatedly referring to it by its Hebrew name, despite the interviewer's use of its Arabic name, Jebel Abu-Ghneim.

Bar-Ilan interpreted the Egyptian plan to mean that Israel will relinquish Areas A and B as defined in the Oslo Accords, accounting for 6 percent and 24% of the West Bank respectively, as well as 20% of Area C.

Since Area C constitutes 70% of the West Bank, the Egyptian formula would mean the handover of an additional 14% of the total.

This withdrawal, as well as the proposed surrenders in Area A and Area B, adds up to 40% of the West Bank.

An Associated Press dispatch from Cairo said the plan reiterates Egypt's standing proposal that the reopening of final status talks be keyed to:

- Access roads connecting the West Bank and Gaza Strip;
  - Opening of an international airport in the Gaza Strip;
  - Construction and operation of a deep water port in Gaza City.
- Mohammed Sobehi, identified by AP as a Palestinian diplomat in Cairo, was quoted as saying that Egypt had not informed Palestinian officials of this plan.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dear

## FRED KOUVANT

The funeral will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, June 24, 1997 at 11:00 a.m. at the Hayarkon Cemetery.

Mourned by:  
Friends and family in the country and abroad

THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

deeply mourns the passing of

## ARNOLD R. MEYER

a generous supporter, veteran member of its Board of Governors, and recipient of the Institute's Ph.D. Honoris Causa, and extends its condolences to his wife Roselyn and all the family

# Arafat: Netanyahu doesn't realize seriousness of his actions

By DAVID RUDGE

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday expressed deep concern over the state of the peace process and the policies of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Arafat maintained that Netanyahu apparently does not realize the seriousness of his actions and the possible consequences in the regional context, as well as in terms of Israeli-Palestinian relations.

He made the comments in a meeting in Ramallah yesterday with a delegation from the Israel Communist Party (ICP) — the main component of Hadash — which invited him to its convention, which opens in Haifa on Wednesday.

Arafat said he would be unable to attend but would be sending a high-level delegation, led by PA

Information and Culture Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo.

"It was a very good meeting with Chairman Arafat and senior PA officials, but the general atmosphere was one of deep concern over the situation," said Mohammed Baraki, general secretary of Hadash and a member of the ICP.

"He stressed that he is committed to the peace process and that it is important for the Israeli public to know that there is a partner on the Palestinian side and that it is also important to intensify the Israeli-Palestinian struggle to achieve peace," Baraki said.

"The fact, however, that he said Netanyahu doesn't realize the seriousness of his actions is an expression of his criticism of the prime minister's policies and his concern over the consequences.

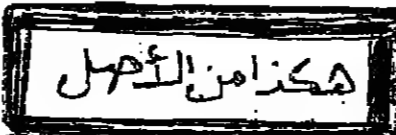
"In our assessment, the peace

process is still alive, but it could explode at any time because of the policies of Netanyahu. There are already disturbances in Hebron and other places and there is also the danger of a regional outbreak.

"Arafat himself said Netanyahu had succeeded in destroying all of Israel's achievements with Arab countries within a year and this could lead to a grave and extremely dangerous new reality."

President Ezer Weizman was also invited to attend the opening of the ICP convention, but declined on the grounds that he does not participate in the conventions of any political party.

Delegations from other parties in the PA are also expected to attend, as well as representatives from communist parties abroad, including Russia, Europe, South Africa, and other countries.



Easing court  
Man gets a new heart — and a bypass  
RADI BEEB







# Tensions below summit surface

By DAVID E. SANGER

DENVER (New York Times) — President Clinton and the leaders of Russia, Japan and Western Europe plunged into the messy business of defining their new roles in the global economy this weekend, with Russia pressing for quick entry into the World Trade Organization and Europe struggling to save its effort to unify under a single currency.

Buoyed by the strongest economic performance in the world, Clinton exuded optimism at the opening of the summit meeting, which until this year was called the Group of Seven, but now, with the inclusion of Russia, is formally called the Summit of the Eight. Nevertheless the president's aides were clearly skeptical that Russia and Europe were prepared to adopt the major economic reforms that US officials believe are necessary in the next year or two.

In return for its grudging agreement to the expansion of NATO, Russia was all but promised entry by next year into the World Trade Organization, the club of trading nations. The move would greatly help its exports by lowering tariffs on Russian-made goods.

But administration officials say they are highly skeptical that President Boris Yeltsin can move that quickly to push through the wrenching market openings and legal changes that are the price of entry. Similar problems have bogged down negotiations over China's effort to enter the trading group.

As the weekend meeting of the eight leaders opened here Friday, administration officials were also dancing around the question of whether Europe's effort to create a single currency, the euro, by 1999 could threaten the financial stability of America's oldest trading partners. European officials had pressed for a blanket endorsement of the single currency in an economic statement released Saturday.



US President Bill Clinton waves to reporters as the leaders of the world's biggest economic powers and Russia head out to a dinner of rattle-snake steak this weekend in Denver. (Reuter)

But the United States, with the backing of Japan and Britain, insisted on a far more conditional endorsement. The final statement says the leaders would welcome monetary union if it was accompanied by major economic reforms, and "would contribute to the stability of the international monetary system." Those are code words for an end to the inflexible rules that have prevented companies from paring down, moving workers, and becoming

far more competitive on world markets. "France, Germany and Italy share the challenging task of restoring strong employment growth," the economic statement said. "While pursuing efforts toward restoring sound fiscal positions they will need to deepen structural reforms to reduce barriers to job creation and to increase efficiency of government actions and, where necessary, reshape its role in their economies." In

Saturday's discussion among the leaders, there was a vigorous debate between France and other participants over whether it is possible to shorten the French work week, which the new Socialist government has promised, without slowing economic growth. US officials have argued that Europe's work week needs to be lengthened, but it is unclear whether the United States pressed that argument Saturday. A senior administration official

said here on Friday that beneath the bland wording of the statement, "there is a lot more nervousness than there was just a month or two ago that the Europeans haven't grappled with the real implications of what they are attempting." "We haven't gone as far as saying that they are on the verge of messing up the continent — that would only fuel their resentment — but you'll probably hear some more explicit description of the risks," the official said.



Grainy photographs that are alleged to show Russia's justice minister with women in a sauna that's run by organized crime groups have set off a scandal in Russia. (Reuter)

## Russian PM suspends justice minister in sauna scandal

MOSCOW (Reuter) — Russia's justice minister, caught in a scandal over a video film showing naked sauna scenes, will be removed from office temporarily pending an inquiry, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said yesterday.

Valentin Kovalyov, who is also a member of Russia's top-level Security Council, asked President Boris Yeltsin to suspend him while he cleared his name.

His request came after publication of grainy snaps taken from the video, showing him in a sauna with women.

"We will suspend him temporarily from his duties," Chernomyrdin said. "But things have to be investigated. I would prefer not to make any decisions based just on the publication."

Chernomyrdin recalled the 53-year-old former law professor from a foreign trip on Friday when the story broke. "He is a lawyer. He knows how to defend himself. Let him prove it is not true."

In a country long known for official secrecy, few, if any, Russian ministers have had to resign because of scandals. In the Soviet era, newspapers almost never put the spotlight on serving ministers.

Moscow's powerful mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, said Kovalyov should quit. He described the allegations as "inadmissible for a person in such an important job."

Russian television stations have broadcast brief excerpts from a black-and-white video shot using a hidden camera. The TV said the video was shot at a gangland night-club sauna in September 1995. Kovalyov, who became justice minister in January 1995, said in a statement this weekend that he had nothing to be ashamed of.

## Khmer faction expected to turn over Pol Pot to gov't

PHNOM PENH (Reuter) — Khmer Rouge strongman Pol Pot is still alive and will be handed over to the Cambodian government very soon, a government general said yesterday.

"Pol Pot is still alive. I met him this morning," General Nhiek Bun Chhay said.

Earlier yesterday, Cambodian Second Prime Minister Hun Sen said he had received an unconfirmed report that the 69-year-old guerrilla leader, blamed for the "killing fields" deaths of over one million of his people in the 1970s, was dead. He has long suffered from malaria.

Nhiek Bun Chhay, who has spearheaded talks with Khmer Rouge renegades who broke with Pol Pot earlier this month, said the guerrilla leader was being detained at the Anlong Veng jungle headquarters of the breakaway Khmer Rouge faction which captured him last week.

The general said the breakaway rebel faction had agreed to dissolve its political and military wings and recognize the government.

The elusive Pol Pot would be handed over to the government soon, said Nhiek Bun Chhay, Cambodia's deputy chief of general staff. "They will give Pol Pot to the government very soon," he said.

Speaking on his return from Anlong Veng, the general said he did not talk to Pol Pot but saw him inside a house where he was being detained, adding: "He is very old." Nhiek Bun Chhay said he had not taken a picture of the Khmer Rouge leader, who has not been seen in public since shortly after his brutal regime was overthrown in 1979.

First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh said he wanted to see Pol Pot moved out of Anlong Veng as soon as possible. Ranariddh and his party have led efforts to strike a deal with more moderate elements of the Khmer



Nhiek Bun Chhay, deputy chief of Cambodia's army, in Phnom Penh yesterday. (Reuter)

Rouge, angering Hun Sen, who sees any agreement between Ranariddh and the breakaway group as a threat to his position.

## New York back on murder track

NEW YORK (New York Times) — Six men were killed in separate incidents during a 12-hour period this weekend.

The recent violence came at a time when the city was experiencing a 50 percent drop in homicides since 1993. The last time the city experienced this many unrelated killings was in March 1996. Five people were killed within a 10-hour span then, just days after eight killings were recorded in a 24-hour period.

At least three of this weekend's killings resulted from disputes, police said. One of the slayings, that of Larry Egerton, 46, in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, occurred when a man wearing a ski mask approached him on a bicycle, tried to rob him and then opened fire, police said.

There were no apparent motives in the last two of the six slayings.

While some detectives linked the violence to the full moon, officials said it was just a statistical happenstance. "We have had that before," Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said at a news briefing. "Murder is down more this year, than last year."

Last June, the city had 97 murders, the mayor said. "So far this year — the month is like two-thirds gone — we have half of that. So I would not be concerned about one day. You look at an entire month." According to preliminary statistics released earlier this month by the FBI, the number of homicides across the nation declined by 11% last year compared to 1995. In New York, the number of homicides dropped

to 986 in 1996 from 1,177 in 1995. Looking at a three-year period, between 1993 and 1996, the murder rate was cut nearly in half.

The first of the six killings occurred at 5:20 p.m. in the Bronx. Detectives in Staten Island found the body of the sixth victim exactly 12 hours later at 5:20 a.m. In Queens, a man was stabbed and shot to death at 1:15 a.m. by a group of people he was drinking with, police said. At 2:57 a.m. in Washington Heights, a man was shot in a gun battle with another man. He died three hours later.

Egerton was killed in Brooklyn at 4:27 a.m., and a 20-year-old unidentified man was shot in the Bronx at 4:59 a.m. A second victim in that shooting was in critical condition at Lincoln Hospital.

## Defection boosts Turkey's PM-designate

ANKARA (AP) — A deputy defected yesterday from the Islamic-led alliance to a pro-Western bloc under premier-designate Mesut Yilmaz, but Yilmaz was still far short of the support he needs for a majority in parliament.

Haluk Mufuler, from Tansu Ciller's True Path party, banded in his resignation a day after Yilmaz called on parties to join forces with his Motherland party against the Islamic Welfare Party. "We are expecting more defections

in the coming days," Yilmaz said. Ciller's party is also pro-Western, but the former premier a year ago took it into a coalition with Welfare leader Necmettin Erbakan, who stepped down as prime minister last week under pressure from the pro-secular military, which had been angered by his religious policies.

Mufuler was expected to officially join Motherland today, Yilmaz said. Erbakan had been hoping Ciller could have led the coalition until early elections, possibly this fall, in a bid to appease the military. But President Suleyman Demirel refused to approve the power-swap, which would have left Welfare with key cabinet posts. Instead he asked Yilmaz, a bitter, center-right rival of Ciller, to try to form a government.

## Nazi past catches up to adventurer

VIENNA (AP) — A Nazi past has caught up with Austrian explorer and writer Heinrich Harrer just months before a multimillion-dollar movie is released about his time in Tibet, where he tutored the Dalai Lama.

Seven years in Tibet, starring Brad Pitt, is based on the best-selling book Harrer wrote in the early 1950s after he fled Tibet's capital, Lhasa, during the Chinese invasion. It is to be released Oct. 8 by Tri-Star, a division of Sony.

German magazine Stern last month published details revealing that Harrer joined the Nazi party when Germany took control of Austria in 1938. The prominent mountaineer also joined the SS. At a time when Nazi organizations still were banned in Austria, 21-year-old Harrer joined the SA in 1933.

The film's French director, Jean-Jacques Annaud, said he had suspected Harrer had Nazi connections. But Annaud added that after the war, "he devoted his life to nonviolence, human rights and racial equality."

Harrer, now 84, said that "from today's view the former party and SS membership is an extremely unpleasant thing." He added that he had a "clear conscience." Harrer said he joined the party to further his teaching and mountaineering careers.

Harrer told Stern that without this membership he would have had no chance to join a government-financed Himalaya expedition, his life's dream. At the end of that expedition, Harrer and a colleague were arrested by British troops in India, only to escape through Tibet to Lhasa, where Harrer taught the Dalai Lama mathematics, English and sports.

# GAME TIME

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**Scitex Corporation Ltd.**  
**Notice of Annual General Meeting of Shareholders**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of Scitex Corporation Ltd., will be held at the offices of the Company, Herzlia Street, Industrial Park, Herzlia B, Israel, on Monday, June 30, 1997 at 10:30 a.m. Shareholders of record at the close of business on May 26, 1997, are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the meeting and notices, proxy solicitation material and forms of proxy have been mailed to such shareholders. Shareholders who are interested in further information should contact David Shulman, the Corporate Secretary of the Company, Tel: 09-968-7334. Herzlia, Israel, June 23, 1997

مكتبة القدس



### Cybill leads the way

By ROBBY BERMAN

The new series *Cybill*, starring Cybill Shepherd, is leading Reshet's summer lineup for Channel 2. *Cybill* (starting July 7) is a comedy revolving around a working actress in Los Angeles with a stop-start career complicated by an eccentric extended family. Her best friend is a rich-by-settlement divorcee with a twisted sense of humor.

*Baywatch* is back as the most popular TV show around the world. Watching eight seasons of beach-anchored television plots can, well, make you plötz. But let's face it, no one is watching this show for its intriguing story line. Male viewers sit there waiting for one of the female lifeguards to run in slow-motion. It's a gay thing.

Reshet's choice of movies includes *Annie Hall* — the quintessential Woody Allen movie — and the Coen brothers' *The Hudsucker Proxy* (renamed here *The Big Jump* by someone who obviously loves spoiling cinematic endings). This surrealistic film takes a bite out of capitalism and stars Tim Robbins and Paul Newman. It's a "tab breaker" — when you videotape the movie, break off the plastic tab so as not to accidentally erase it.

Steven King's suitably named film *Misery* is horrific, gripping, suspenseful, and Kathy Bates's performance won her an Oscar. And Leslie Nielsen stars in *Naked Gun 2 1/2*. Just looking at the guy makes you laugh.

# Chaos on the airwaves

By EMILY HAUSER

It's an evening in early summer. Two Israeli yuppies turn their television on nervously for the first episode of *IDF 1* (Channel 2; Mondays, 21:10). Half an hour later, with grins on their faces and songs in their hearts, the two hit the Off button, delighted that, for once, local television has entertained, without insulting their intelligence.

But wait. Were my husband and I hallucinating? Reading the positively vicious reviews that appeared in the Hebrew press after *IDF 1*'s premiere made me wonder: did we miss something?

*IDF 1* is billed as a comedy-drama, set in a fictitious military radio station, based loosely on Army Radio. The first four episodes have featured more comedy than drama, focusing more or less on the travails of married station head Yaron Gutman (Shmuel Vilozny) and Major Orly Azmon (Rama Messinger) as they attempt to inject a little order into the station's chaos — provided by the other five characters — while adding their own stick to the mix.

There are people falling in and out of love, hipster attitudes, clichés about journalism, and a male recruit who flung a haircut exemption. In short, a sit-com, with occasional Meaningful Moments.

No, it's not *Friends*, or *M\*A\*S\*H*. But it's fun, the writing isn't bad, the acting frequently good, the editing usually sharp, and the directing, camera-work, sound and sets all perfectly fine. Given that nothing of its sort has ever been done here before, meaning that no one involved has any experience trying to put together a "comedy-drama," I have been, frankly, impressed.

"A miserable series," groused Tel



Shmuel Vilozny and Rama Messinger try to bring order to 'IDF 1.'

Aviv weekly *Ha'ir*. "So badly written, so banal, with so much non-talent, that it makes me want to scream." Among endless complaints, reviewer Rogel Alper harped that, for the genre, there are just too many lead characters. Clearly, Alper has never seen *Friends*.

*Ha'aretz* wasn't much kinder, writing after just one episode that the series' creators had "missed an opportunity to showcase a unique phenomenon: a military radio station trying to balance its responsibility to the establishment ... with its desire to function as a nonaffiliated medium." Oh, I see: this brand-new sit-com/drama was supposed to fit

absolutely everything into its first episode — and become a documentary in the process.

"I live among people who don't know how to be supportive," Vilozny says wearily. "We have a tradition of self-flagellation."

The veteran theater actor says he, too, would like to see the series' dramatic side developed more, and concedes that the inexperience of those involved has occasionally been reflected in the show. "There are some very talented individuals [working on *IDF 1*], but we have to be a team. I'm sure that we'll grow, and develop into a successful team."

For the most part, though, Vilozny

is happy with his new job, saying that he's particularly fascinated by "the continuity of it... I'm building a character — in theater, when you build a character it's done. I don't know where this Yaron Gutman will go, what he'll do."

With obvious pleasure, he recalls how customs officials greeted him when he returned from a trip abroad on the day after *IDF 1*'s premiere. "Suddenly I heard these cries of 'Vilozny! It's great! What a good show!' We didn't invent the wheel, but we're trying to ride the bike and adjust the seat to [Israeli] needs.... All I ask is that people be patient. We're trying to build something here."

## NEWS

of the muse

### The romance is over

One of Hollywood's most celebrated couples is splitting up. Brad Pitt and Gwyneth Paltrow have broken off their engagement, according to Pitt's publicist, Cindy Gusgenti, who gave no reason for the parting.

Published reports said the couple had planned to tie the knot this month. There was no word about whether the split would affect plans for the couple to team up for the comedy *Duets*. The movie was to be directed by Paltrow's father, Bruce Paltrow, and was scheduled to begin filming in the fall.

Pitt, 32, and Paltrow, 24, met in 1995 on the set of the drama *Seven*. In March, Pitt told *Rolling Stone* magazine that it was love at first sight. AP

### Texas gets tough on lyrics

Texas has become the first US state to prohibit its agencies from investing in companies that produce or distribute music with lyrics that are sexually explicit or extol violence. The Texas law was passed in the form of a tiny rider at the end of the state's massive 900-page budget, signed by Gov. George W. Bush. The rider prohibits the use of state money to invest in any business that owns 10 percent or more of a company that receives income from music that describes or advocates violence, illegal drug use, degradation of women, assault of police officers, necrophilia, bestiality, pedophilia or criminal street gangs.

The Recording Industry Association of America is preparing to challenge the rider on constitutional grounds. Association vice president Cary Sherman warned that the ban "could include things like Ray Charles's 'Let's Go Get Stoned' and Bob Marley's 'I Shot the Sheriff.'" *New York Times*

### 'Sisters' play in Jerusalem

Pulitzer Prize winning US playwright Wendy Wasserstein was inspired to write this show after she visited Israel a few years ago. Habimah has done it in Hebrew and now the Jerusalem English Speaking Theater (JEST) has a new production of *The Sisters Rosensweig*. It's a deft, wry, funny and compassionate portrait of three Jewish women over 40 coping with who they were, who they are and where they're going. The show opens this Wednesday at Jerusalem's Gerard Behar Center. Helen Kaye

### Further farce in the bedroom

The Mating Game is the latest of UK playwright Robin Hawdon's rollicking bedroom farces to visit. This one's about successful chat show host Draycott Harris who just can't seem to get it together when it comes to girls. He's played by engaging Patrick Kearns, last seen here in Hawdon's *Don't Dress for Dinner*. Draycott has fallen in love with his sexy new PR lady, Honey Took (Nicole Fitzpatrick), and if that isn't enough of a problem, wait till sultry Mrs. Finney (Sadie Nine) hits the deck. It sex, fun, doors, more doors, more sex and it plays countrywide July 12-19. Helen Kaye

### Awards for Arnon and Mazia

Judith Arnon, the founder and recently retired director of the Kibbutz Dance Company, was honored with the International Society for Performing Arts Distinguished Artist Award for lifetime achievement, at the closing ceremony of the ISPA conference last Wednesday. Playwright Edna Mazia will receive the 1997 Margalit Prize for her play *A Family Affair* at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem on Wednesday. The author of the long-running *Games in the Back Yard*, Mazia is a scriptwriter for *Gov Night* on Channel 2, and has recently published her first book. The prize is worth NIS 10,000. Helen Kaye

### JSO bridges cultural gaps

The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra is joining the trend of concerts combining traditional classical music with that of eastern traditions. Yehoram Cohen encores a special concert (July 3 in Jerusalem), and Shimon Cohen leads the orchestra in selections by Pergolesi and Paganini as well as compositions by Peretz Eiyahu and selections of traditional Arab-influenced music. Among the soloists are singer Marcel Museri and tar player Shlomo Tahlov. Michael Aizenstadt

### Win a prize for klezmer

In honor of its 10th anniversary, the Safed Klezmer Festival (July 14-16), is offering a prize for an original klezmer (Jewish soul music) piece. Composers are invited to submit an instrumental piece of up to four minutes. The fully scored composition manuscript, together with a tape recording, should be submitted by July 7 to: Hanan Bar-Sela, Klezmer Competition, Oren Plus Advertising, 5 Hamasger Street, Tel Aviv 61238. Helen Kaye

### MOVIE REVIEW

## Night of the long knife

By ADINA HOFFMAN

The recipient of this year's Academy Award for the best adapted screenplay, *Sling Blade* is everything one expects of an Oscar winner: staid, sentimental, and dominated by the behind-the-scenes presence of an actor. (The writer, Billy Bob Thornton, also directed and stars.) *Sling Blade* isn't these "dubious" characteristics weren't enough to assure Thornton's triumph over Arthur Miller, Anthony Minghella and even the scriptwriting team of Shakespeare & Branagh, the fact that the film's plot surrounds the ostracization and ultimate redemption of a mildly retarded man made it a shoe-in for the gold statuette. One thing Academy members can't resist is a picture that romanticizes mental limitations; add to this a few understated Christian symbols, and you've got a sure-fire champ.

*Sling Blade* does have several powerful moments, and Thornton's performance as Karl Childers, a gruff-talking Southern simpleton just released from the state asylum where he spent 25 years for killing his mother and her lover, is impressive in its studied way. But really, it's this warmed-over mash of Faulknerian-Forrest Gumpian bokuun the best that contemporary American screenwriting has to offer? If anything, the script is one of the film's weakest elements. The story rings false, the characters are types and, line for line, the dialogue sounds like a poor Mark Twain imitation.

Then again, Thornton's old-fashioned screenplay calls more attention to itself than does the script of a well-written film, and it could be that this quality made it appealing to the prize-givers, who must have felt they were getting something for their money. *Sling Blade* has themes: it's About Good and Evil. The actors (including John Ritter, country-music singer Dwight Yoakam, and, in an uncredited cameo, Robert Duvall) spend a great deal of their time reciting lines that were obviously written.

The deeper problem with the

movie still derives solely from Thornton's own over-the-top performance.

And this performance itself is sympathetic and irritating in turn, the kind of scene-stealing, gesture-packed portrayal that's compelling for a little while and in isolation but spells disaster for the rest of an acting ensemble and tedium when milked for the length of a two-and-a-half-hour film. Instead of living full lives of their own, the other characters (a little boy who befriends Karl, the boy's warm-hearted mother, her abusive boyfriend, a gay family friend, Karl's father, etc.) serve the function that one imagines the props must have held in the theatrical production — to act as catalysts and sponges for the hero's rambling stick.

At first, it's hard to know how to take Thornton's blend of folksy realism and blatant contrivance. In an early scene, we hear about how, as a young, abused boy, Karl found his mother with her lover and reacted instinctively by wielding a knife, the *sling blade* of the title. The actor huddles low in a chair, his hair cut close to the skull, jaw thrust forward, lips pursed permanently in a combined smile/wince. A stagey pool of light spills from a reading lamp beside him, and his own voice fills the darkened room as it might a small black-box theater. Not only is the setting play-like, the monologue that Karl proceeds to deliver in his gravelly singsong — pausing to grunt triumphily every sentence or two and rubbing his hands together nonstop —

### SLING BLADE

★★

Written and directed by Billy Bob Thornton. Hebrew title: *Sling Blade*. 146 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.

With Billy Bob Thornton, Dwight Yoakam, John Ritter, J.T. Walsh, Natalie Canerday and Lucas Black.

movie, though, is that it hasn't been transformed satisfactorily from its original form as one-man stage show to a more densely populated, visually kinetic work for the screen. Despite the fact that the action has been "opened out" to include other characters and a realistic small-town backdrop, the dramatic pulse of the

## The psalms in his hand

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

How can one sing the Lord's song in a strange land? This existential question, asked by the poet of the Book of Psalms, describes the very essence of the life and works of Polish-born, American-based, Israeli composer Jan Radzynski. And this ongoing contradiction is also the centre of Radzynski's new opus, *Shirat Ma'ayan*, which is currently being premiered by the Haifa Symphony Orchestra.

*Shirat Ma'ayan* was commissioned by the HSO from Radzynski, whose symphonic works have already been performed in Israel by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, IBA, the Israel Chamber Orchestra and the Israel Sinfonieta Beersheba. Radzynski responded to this commission with two psalms, one written for mezzo-soprano and orchestra, the other for tenor and orchestra. The first is *God is our Strength*, the second *By the Rivers of Babylon*.

Setting Psalms to music is far from original. But, Radzynski explains in a phone conversation from his home in Columbus, Ohio, where he currently teaches, "although the Psalms are well known by people of every

creed, for me they are the last string of Jewish history and culture.

"They are so varied, conveying the entire gamut of human emotions, from love to death, from fear to elation."

And writing in Columbus music to the lines "If I forget thee Oh Jerusalem," is much more than symbolic. "I identify very closely with the text," the composer explains, finding it hard to overcome this basic contradiction between his beliefs and emotions.

Radzynski was born in Warsaw, and at 19, he immigrated to Israel. He married here and his first daughter was born here (his son was born in the US). After serving in the IDF during the Yom Kippur War, he went to study in the US. And suddenly, "life has some surprises for you which you do not plan."

Although he has remained in the US ever since, the 47-year-old composer argues that he sees himself very much as an Israeli. But that said, he comments: "The life of an Israeli abroad is a life of contradictions, it's not an easy, simple existence."

The HSO plays Radzynski's *Shirat Ma'ayan* at its season finale under the baton of music director Stanley Sperber. Concert dates are this Saturday (June 28) at the North Theater in Kiryat Haim, June 29, 30, July 2, 3, at the Haifa Auditorium and July 5 at the Noga Theater in Jaffa.



Jan Radzynski



Masa Sod will premiere at the Karmiel Festival (Vardi Karam)

is NIS 6.6 million, "which is 23% less in real terms than our NIS 6.1m budget last year," he says.

Some 50% comes from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Arts, with the United Kibbutz

Movement nominally responsible for another NIS 1.4m. In fact, says Rudolf, the UKM is so strapped for cash "that it usually waits and then gives us money to cover holes that turn up in the budget."

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## United on Jerusalem

On May 27, 1948, after bitter fighting, the last 1,300 residents of the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem were evacuated, ending centuries of Jewish presence in the ancient part of the city. For almost 20 years, the synagogues of the Jewish quarter lay destroyed and Jews were barred from their holiest site, the Western Wall.

For Israelis, redividing Jerusalem is as unthinkable as redividing Berlin would be to Americans and Europeans. Yet the United States continues to struggle with its policy toward Israel's capital. This month, Congress made two important statements concerning Jerusalem. First, it passed a non-binding resolution commemorating the 30th anniversary of the reunification of the city, which passed by a 406 to 17 vote. The resolution called on the president to "affirm publicly as a matter of United States policy that Jerusalem must remain the undivided capital of the State of Israel."

The second and perhaps more significant statement was passage of a foreign aid authorization bill that contains four provisions relating to Jerusalem: authorizing \$100 million for the construction of a U.S. embassy in Jerusalem; placing the US consulate in Jerusalem under the authority of the ambassador to Israel, identifying Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in official US documents, and, upon request, recording Jerusalem, Israel as the place of birth of US citizens born in the city.

The first provision, authorizing funds to build a new embassy in Jerusalem, is largely symbolic because it does not require that the funds be spent. The binding element of US law is in the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, which requires that the embassy be located in Jerusalem no later than May 31, 1999.

The other three provisions, however, speak to the dirty little secret about US policy towards Jerusalem: the US currently does not recognize any part of Jerusalem as being part of Israel, let alone as Israel's capital. The US consul-general continues to report directly to the State Department in Washington, as his predecessors have since the 1840's, and not to the embassy in Tel Aviv.

Israel may be the only country in the world that, according to official US maps, has no capital. And Americans whose children are born in Jerusalem are surprised to find their children's passports list a disembodied "Jerusalem" as the birthplace, with no country attached.

According to current policy, which has been in place not just since 1967, but since 1948, even the western portion of Jerusalem is not treated as fully part of Israel. Somehow, US policy became fossilized since the United Nations partition resolution of 1947, which envisioned the city as an internationalized enclave.

Internationalization was supposed to expire after ten years, the Arab states never accepted it, and the resolution became a dead letter after the 1948 war, yet US policy remained fixed. In effect, the policy toward Jerusalem became the only part of US policy that stubbornly refused to recognize the results of Israel's War of Independence — almost as if the Arab refusal to recognize Israel's right to exist had crept into a corner of US policy in, of all places, Jerusalem.

Over the years, the dissonance between America's generally pro-Israel policies and its stand on Jerusalem grew, and attracted congressional attention. The Congress, to its credit, could not understand why the US should maintain a policy that is so prejudicial against Israel, even after Arab sensibilities are taken into account.

For example, the US position could be that Jerusalem should be the subject of final-status negotiations, but that it is and will be the capital of Israel no matter what, so the US Embassy should be located there.

The mantra of US policy — that Jerusalem is the subject of negotiations and therefore US policy will not change — is a non sequitur. There is nothing inconsistent about recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and Jerusalem remaining a topic for final-status negotiations; Israel itself holds these two positions concurrently.

Similarly, there is no reason for the US to be skittish about asserting that Jerusalem must remain undivided. Even the Palestinians have given up trying to argue for division. The official Palestinian Authority web site states that the Palestinians envisage Jerusalem as "the united capital of two peoples." The same source states that the Palestinians, "declare that Jerusalem, and not only East Jerusalem, is the capital of the prospective Palestinian state ..."

It is far from clear how all of Jerusalem could be both an Israeli and Palestinian capital, with no border dividing the city. What is clear is that Jerusalem, even according to Palestinians, should remain united and Israel's capital. According to the Jerusalem Embassy Act, and as just reaffirmed overwhelmingly by the Congress, it is the "policy of the United States" that "Jerusalem should remain an undivided city ... and should be recognized as the capital of the State of Israel."

If the US administration is unwilling to state this position publicly, at least it should feel bound not to act contrary to the will of Congress. The provisions just passed by Congress are an opportunity to act consistently with both the policy mandated by Congress and with the need to negotiate over Jerusalem in final-status talks. The new provisions on Jerusalem are a long-overdue correction to US policy; they should be implemented, not vetoed.

## Double trouble

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

The other day I came across a colleague looking ill and defeated. Her son, I recalled, had been killed in the Yom Kippur War.

"This time the haredim have really crossed the red line," she told me through clenched teeth. She went on to talk about an article that had appeared a few days before in Rabbi Schach's *Yated Ne'eman* daily, by editor Natan Ze'ev Grossman.

All those who have fallen in Israel's wars, Grossman opined,

### Two wrongs will never make a right

died as a result of the sins of "licentious seculars and the national religious."

Like all parents of our almost 19,000 fallen soldiers, my friend cherishes the memory of her son as a hero who died in the defense of his country. He fell because wars kill people, and those who end up doing the dying tend to be those who do the fighting — which excludes the editor of *Yated Ne'eman* and most of the paper's readers.

Now I cannot claim to know whether there is a God; but I do perceive a yawning gap between the compassion and graciousness attributed to the God of the Jews and God's alleged willingness, according to his "Lithuanian" adherents, to have innocents die for others' sins.

Not long ago another haredi paper argued that six million Jews perished in the Holocaust because of the "deviations" of Reform and Conservative Jews. The insinuation seemed to be that the Nazis were nothing more than God's ser-

vants doing his dirty work for him.

Even as a nonbeliever I refuse to accept that these are the ways of God, if he exists.

The conclusion I am forced to, therefore, is that such poisonous pronouncements by Grossman and his ilk have less to do with God and religion than with the deliberate spreading of senseless hatred. The dissemination is being done by members of a community whose 99-year-old spiritual leader is on his deathbed, and whose younger leadership echelon looks like a collection of narrow-minded zealots, lacking any compassion for the people of Israel in general and the bereaved parents of fallen soldiers in particular.

It might also be recalled that last week, Rabbi Moshe Gafni, one of this community's two Knesset representatives, refused to sit down with Reform and Conservative rabbis to see if there was a sensible way out of the conversion law mess.

AND yet the rift cannot be blamed on haredi zealotry only.

Too many secular Israelis reject the legitimacy of the haredi life style. Too many regard all haredim, irrespective of which "court" they belong to and bow they lead their daily lives, as demons.

The haredim are right when they accuse us seculars of adhering to a double standard.

Haredi sources recently published ads in the secular press pointing out that while the secular community was quick to turn the haredi youth photographed burning the national flag on Lag Ba'Omer into a symbol of haredi society, it treated the secular youth who burned two friends to death over a NIS 150 debt as nothing

## Dry Bones

THE NEW SYSTEM OF DIRECT ELECTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER PUTS DICTATORIAL POWER INTO THE HANDS OF ONE MAN!



AN INTELLIGENT POLITICIAN COULD HAVE CLEVERLY HIDDEN THIS DEFECT FROM THE PUBLIC



BUT, LUCKILY FOR US, THE VERY FIRST TIME THAT WE USED THE NEW SYSTEM...



WE ELECTED A GUY WHO WASN'T SMART ENOUGH TO EVEN TRY TO FOOL US!



more than an aberration.

One might argue about the validity of the comparison, but one cannot argue about the double standard.

Was the haredi youth's act any more of a slur on the sanctity of national symbols than the words of some Aviv Geffen songs? I think not.

Yet many of us who tend to a lenient view of Geffen (who, after all, comes from the "complicated" Dayan family) expressed no interest whatsoever in the background of the young flag-burner. How many of us even learned his name?

How long will haredi and secu-

lar Jews continue treating the circumstances of their lives in this country as a zero-sum game? Are the two groups capable, or even desirous, of dialogue?

This much is sure. Blasphemy like Grossman's will not promote dialogue; nor will the seculars' double standard.

Nor, regrettably, will Uri Zohar with his new TV talk show, or haredi journalist Yisrael Eichler, who appears regularly on Dan Margalit's *Popolitika*. These programs are, at best, popular entertainment, confusing the issues much more than they clarify them.

The writer is a political scientist.

## Sorry, there's no happy ending

MARTIN SHERMAN

Remember MAD, Mutually Assured Destruction? It was the acronym for the underlying rationale of superpower deterrence strategy during the Cold War face-off between the US and the USSR.

Well, here's SAD — Self Assured Destruction — characterizing the underlying rationale of Israel's policy in the post-Oslo era.

It makes little difference whether we're talking about the minimalist version of Israel's proposal for the final settlement with the Palestinians, in which 40 percent of Judea and Samaria will supposedly be transferred to Palestinian control, or the maximalist version, which cites 60 percent. Either ensures the creation of an untenable situation for both sides.

Each proposes the establishment of tiny, dislocated enclaves crisscrossed by security corridors under Israeli control. Clearly totally unacceptable to any Palestinian regime, they also guarantee the Balkanization of the area.

In fact, it would be hard to come up with a more effective formula for a Bosnia-like scenario than a proposal which advocates the establishment, within highly-confined territorial boundaries, of two military organizations, Israeli and Palestinian. Each would be operating under separate systems of command, with different loyalties, different operational priorities and agendas; each would be based on a different, inimical ethnic composition.

As a proposal for tranquility, it appears to make as much sense as trying to extinguish a fire by dousing it with gasoline.

Even if some authoritative

Palestinian leadership willing to forgo 40-60 percent of Judea and Samaria could be found, it would be confronted by vigorous, probably violent, resistance from within its own people.

Such opposition would not be

enclaves, running along the fringes of major population centers, will be almost impossible to secure. On the other, the territorial discontinuity of the areas under Palestinian authority will make them almost impossible to govern

### Pre-detente there was MAD, post-Oslo we have SAD. And it's really gloomy

difficult to comprehend, since the proposals do little to satisfy even the most rudimentary prerequisites for Palestinian national self-esteem, economic viability, and administrative feasibility.

As former Meretz minister Prof. Amnon Rubinstein once wrote, such measures can serve "only to deepen Palestinian humiliation and perpetuate Jewish-Arab enmity."

Negative Palestinian feelings will vent themselves in two ways. Firstly, there will be hostile resentment toward the incumbent Palestinian leadership because of its "perfidious surrender" of national interests. This will create fertile ground for incitement aimed at replacing that leadership by a less accommodating regime, commensurately more inimical to Israel.

Secondly, there will be acts of violence directed at Israel, as an expression of continuing commitment to the struggle to realize Palestinian national rights.

HOW will things look on the ground?

On the one hand, the long, contorted borders of the proposed

effectively.

Thus even assuming the best of intentions among the Palestinian leadership, protecting the coastal metropolis and Jerusalem area from attacks by the "enemies of peace" would become a mammoth task. It would also have very little prospect of success.

To understand the difficulties involved, one might compare the situation likely to arise along our new eastern frontier with the one prevailing on our northern border.

There, the existence of a "security zone," the presence of a pro-Israel militia, and the operational deployment of IDF troops inside Lebanon barely suffice to ensure a very precarious calm along a relatively short (less than 100-km) border.

One can only imagine the much more onerous and fragile situation in the case of an extremely long (almost 700-km) border, without the benefit of any security zone, without a proxy militia, and without the physical deployment of IDF forces inside the Palestinian-held territory.

Under such conditions, almost the entire urban infrastructure of the country would be under con-

tinual threat; the economic and social routine in the heart of the country would be in constant danger of disruption.

Incursions from across the adjacent borders — no more than walking distance from our major cities — and bombardment from the hills commanding the coastal plain by cheap, mobile high arms and rockets available to irregular militias or terrorist organizations could only be prevented by Israeli invasion of Palestinian-controlled territory.

So drastic a measure as ground invasion of a fledgling (allegedly-demilitarized) Palestinian entity would not only bring international censure and sanction; it would also constitute a pretext for the dispatch of forces from the Arab and Moslem countries to aid their assailed and beleaguered brethren.

With the Palestinian areas serving as a staging point for regular military forces, Israel would find itself in a desperate situation, both diplomatically and militarily.

This is the inexorable logic of the SAD syndrome. At the root of the mentality behind it seems a stubborn reluctance to face up to the harsh reality that, under prevailing regional geopolitical conditions, the Israeli-Arab conflict cannot be resolved, only managed.

SAD embodies a fundamental unwillingness to acknowledge that far-reaching Israeli concessions will not defuse inherent Arab enmity; that they serve only to diminish, even eliminate, Israel's ability to contain the conflict.

And for Israel, the consequences of an unmanageable and uncontrollable conflict are very dire.

The writer lectures in political science at Tel Aviv University.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### DORMITORY COMMUNITIES

Sir, — In his article of June 19 concerning Prime Minister Netanyahu's cartographic proposal ostensibly based on the Allon Plan, David Newman makes a gratuitously disparaging reference to settlements over the Green Line as "dormitory communities." This is out of order for three reasons.

First, there is nothing inherently contemptible in bedroom communities. They are one of the common phenomena of modern industrialized and technological society. Otherwise places like, say, Levittown, New York, and Ra'anana and Kfar Shmaryahu would have difficulty maintaining their existence.

Second, despite intense efforts by many of the communities over the Green Line, they were unable to obtain the type of government support (infrastructure, roads, financial benefits, etc.) that would allow and encourage

development of industrial areas. In those few instances where they were successful, such as Barkan in Samaria, the results have been a major contribution to local employment as well as a significant addition to Israel's economic strength and balance of payments.

Third, Dr. Newman is himself a resident of Meitar, a dormitory community par excellence. It is one of the settlements established to ensure a Jewish presence in the northern Negev between Beersheba and the Hebron Hills, a region inhabited primarily by Beduin tribes. Although its proximity to the Green Line is a geographical fact, its legitimacy in the eyes of Dr. Newman is apparently based on the fact that it is on the politically correct side.

JAY SHAPIRO

Ginot Sbornon.

### UNACCEPTABLE VIOLENCE

Sir, — Recent events at the Western Wall highlight a crisis in our entire social fabric. We must decide very quickly whether we wish to be a nation of laws or a nation of fundamentalism and anarchy. If we are to be a nation of laws, we must adopt a "zero level tolerance" to all acts of violence, regardless of the perpetrator. Unless the act of a stone thrown by a haredi youth or adult is treated in the same way as the act of the stone thrown by a Palestinian youth or adult, this country will degenerate further into acts of violence and disrespect for the rule of law. The haredi public has learned from its recent actions on Bar-Ilan Street that they can get away with almost any behavior with no legal repercussions.

Also, since we read that the haredim lead their lives as directed by their rabbinical leaders, it is becoming incredibly disingenuous for these leaders to claim that these acts are performed by a few fringe elements. If the haredi leaders, in no uncertain terms, told their constituents to stop these acts of violence immediately, they would stop. Until these acts result in swift and uncompromising legal action by our police and governmental bodies, the rabbis appear unlikely to stop them.

These violent acts, perpetrated by people many view as religiously observant, are totally unacceptable within any interpretation of Halacha. They serve only to drive the wedge deeper between the various aspects of Jewish society in Israel and worldwide.

STUART GOLDSTEIN

### IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

Sir, — Meir Ronnen's article of May 28, "The sweet possible dream," is sweet all right, but hardly possible. He of all persons should know that, while it may be true that their general trends may not be far apart, we are still dealing with politicians here, and how could they ever agree?

We are unfortunately saddled with an incompetent do-nothing for a prime minister and he certainly would never step down unless forced to. And would the Likud ever accept any of Labor's leaders to occupy that position? Hardly. Ronnen is certainly not the first to suggest that the two big L's get together, and he won't be the last. Unfortunately, in the light of reality, it is just a pipe dream, albeit a good one.

LEONARD ZURAKOV

### EQUALLY GUILTY

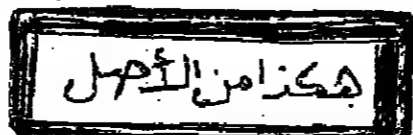
Sir, — I am not disappointed that the police have apprehended the teenager who burned the Israeli flag on Independence Day. I would like to know, however, why the police do not apply the law equally. For many years, Uri Avnery has verbally burned the flag and torn up "Hatikva," citing them as racist symbols which do not represent all Israeli citizens, namely the Arabs. Why have the police not apprehended or investigated Avnery, perhaps for disloyalty and incitement? His writings, no less than the teenager's wanton act, show disrespect for the founders of the Jewish State and the memories of those who have fallen in its defense.

AVRAHAM Y. GROFF

Netanya.

Jerusalem.

Ramat Yisbai.





Jerusalem Post  
Intelligent...  
Elected a guy...  
Wanted a guy...  
To fool us!

ending

room

## A New Leaf

# Now, the Archenemies Need Each Other

By ROBERT PEAR

WASHINGTON  
THERE has never been a business lobby quite like Big Tobacco. For decades, its clout in Washington and state capitals was legendary, its prowess acknowledged by friend and foe.

Politicians crossed Big Tobacco at their peril. Most didn't try. Tobacco industry war chests poured cash into efforts to block new cigarette taxes and anti-smoking ordinances, to elect friends and crush enemies.

The Tobacco Institute, headquarters of the industry's effort to rebut the evidence that smoking makes people sick, was a Washington powerhouse. "Dollar for dollar, they're probably the most effective lobby on Capitol Hill," Senator Edward M. Kennedy, the Massachusetts Democrat, said of it in 1979.

No more. State and local anti-smoking laws have swept the country in the face of Big Tobacco's strenuous objections. When President Clinton moved to restrict cigarette sales and advertising just 11 weeks before Election Day last year, he reckoned that he had more to gain from attacks on tobacco than he would lose in tobacco-growing states. Bob Dole, the Republican candidate, suffered politically when he suggested that tobacco might not be addictive and that the Government should not regulate it.

For anti-smoking crusaders, nothing has brought more joy than the waning influence of Big Tobacco.

Until now.  
For suddenly last week, with the conclusion of an agreement by the industry to submit to regulation of tobacco as a drug, to curtail its advertising and to pay more than \$360 billion in exchange for protection from lawsuits, Big Tobacco and its lifelong enemies now need each other.

### A Skeptical Congress

And the deal cannot take effect without approval from a Congress that has already pronounced itself deeply skeptical. So, the anti-smoking forces that helped negotiate the new agreement have no hope of winning support for it unless the industry's lobbyists exert their influence.

Republicans like Representative Thomas J. Bliley Jr. of Virginia, long a friend of the industry, have scorned efforts by the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco. The prospect that the industry will now urge him to support a vast expansion of the agency's powers boggles the mind. But such efforts will be necessary because Mr. Bliley is chairman of the House Commerce Committee, which has authority over the F.D.A.

Kathryn Kahler Vose, a spokeswoman for the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, which took part in the negotiations, said: "We have been at war with the tobacco companies. But we will urge Congress to support this package, and we anticipate that the tobacco companies will do so too. The nation will lose the many public health benefits of this agreement if Congress doesn't approve it. That would be really tragic."

Tobacco companies described the settlement as "a bitter pill," and in a joint statement, they said it called for new laws and regulations "with which we do not necessarily agree" — a possible signal of trouble to come. But they promised to support it "in order to achieve a resolution in the public interest."

Although Big Tobacco has been on the defensive for years, it still has big resources that the anti-smoking forces lack, and need. Tobacco companies bankroll many of the super-lawyers and lobbyists in Washington. Its roster of advisers includes blue-ribbon firms like Covington & Burling, Arnold & Porter and Williams & Connolly.

How closely the state attorneys general, public health groups and cigarette makers will work together is unclear. But they share a common objective, translating their agreement into an enforceable Federal law.

For years to come, if the agreement survives, these strange bedfellows will depend on one another in ways they never have before. Together, they may become a new sort of lobby, prodding Congress to bless the agreement they forged.

### The Lawyers Balk

Some people who hate cigarettes oppose the agreement simply on the ground that it does not go far enough to eradicate smoking. But more formidable opposition may come from plaintiffs' lawyers and their clients who want an unfettered opportunity to recover damages.

In a statement in January, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America said, "Our court and jury system must not be denied the opportunity to hold the tobacco industry accountable in the best traditions of American justice." Howard F. Twigg, president of the association, said then that "Congress must not emasculate the very justice system that is only beginning to unearth the truth about tobacco."

Several past presidents of the association took part in the negotiations on behalf of plaintiffs, but the group itself has indicated that it will oppose any provisions of a settlement that curtail the rights of future claimants.

The agreement seems to have already split the ranks of anti-smoking advocates. The American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association and the American Medical Association backed the settlement talks this month. But other anti-tobacco groups like the American Lung Association opposed them, fearing that the industry would gain more from a deal than consumers. All the groups are now evaluating the agreement.

On Friday, Dr. John R. Seffrin, chief executive of the American Cancer Society, said he was "encouraged by the public health concepts" that appear to be embodied in the settlement. But John R. Garrison, managing director of the American Lung Association, said, "Now is not the time to settle."

Whether parties to the agreement will staunchly defend it on Capitol Hill or whether they will seek extra advantage for themselves is uncertain. Before it can take effect, the agreement appears to require numerous steps

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### No Victors, Only Spoils

# How the War Goes On (And On) in Cambodia

By BARBARA CROSSETTE

AS Cambodia wobbles yet again on the edge of a violent implosion, barely five years (and billions of dollars) after the United Nations mounted the largest national recovery mission in its history, the rest of the world might justifiably wonder, as an anonymous Cambodian diplomat asked last week, whether Cambodians are simply bent on killing each other. "Let them be," seems to be the common sentiment. "We have done all we can for them."

That's the problem. There has always been foreign meddling in the affairs of this extraordinary country of Buddhist piety, royalist loyalty, artistic brilliance, exquisite natural beauty and inexplicably deep strains of human cruelty and venality.

Thailand, France, Japan, Vietnam, China, the United States have had a hand in writing and rewriting Cambodia's history and, more broadly, the history of Indochina. A short but not small part of the story is known to Americans as the Vietnam War.

The effects of that war are still being felt throughout Southeast Asia. Perhaps it was fateful coincidence last week that while rumors were flying in Cambodia that Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge leader responsible for at least a million deaths from 1975 to 1979, had been captured, Robert McNamara, the American Defense Secretary who played a major role in raising United States stakes in the war, was in Vietnam discussing how that war could have been avoided.

Perhaps, too, he had learned enough to know that history did not begin with the Americans. The Indochinese conflicts of this century have roots in old animosities that were easily exploited by new players. The ancient Siamese were such a perennial threat to the Khmer people of what is now Cambodia that the home of the stupendous temples and palaces at Angkor was joyously and proudly named Siam Reap, for victory over Siam.

Modern Thailand, which inherited that Siamese legacy, has never given up the game. The Thai military until very recently enjoyed a lucrative business partnership with the Khmer Rouge that allowed generals to exploit impoverished Cambodia's timber and gemstones.

Vietnam was Cambodia's other traditional foe. Some scholars on how Pol Pot came to power believe that the Khmer Rouge's vicious hate propaganda against Vietnam earned it genuine support — and still does, because Cambodians believe their two larger neighbors will always fight over them.

But Siam and Vietnam were outdone by France, which consolidated its hold over Indochina — Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos — by the late 19th century. Decades of relative peace followed, until World War II when Japan occupied much of Southeast Asia. When the Japanese were driven out in 1945, it was only a matter of time before French Indochina became independent countries in 1953-54 — and again vulnerable.

It is fitting that Mr. McNamara and veterans of the leftist-nationalist movement in Vietnam should be talking about how the war got out of control, because the critical decisions made in Hanoi and Washington in the 1950's and 1960's still send out ripples.

After the defeat of the French at Dien Bien Phu in 1954 and the division of Vietnam, the communist leadership under Ho Chi Minh decided that the conquest of South Vietnam, not national development, was the top priority. America's entry did not deter Hanoi, only raised the real and human costs of its policy.

"Vietnam was prepared to make extreme sacrifices, but the Americans didn't understand this," Deputy Foreign Minister Dao Huy Ngoc told the gathering on Friday.

The war set Vietnam back at least a generation, but Hanoi thought the price worth the prize. While other Southeast Asian nations were spawning tiger-cub economies, the country was re-educating its people. The economic damage was compounded when

Continued on Page 4



A stone guardian peers from the overgrown gateway to a Cambodian temple.

### What a Concept!

Less work, more pay: France keeps the dream alive.

By Louis Uchitelle

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### Winning by Losing

Nobody watches all-news TV, but it's a big success.

By Mark Landler

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### More Sweatshops?

Economists take another look at low-wage factories.

By Allen R. Myerson

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### Bribery or Carrot

Clinton's foreign aid gamble: human rights for U.S. dollars.

By Raymond Bonner

4







# The Nation

## Making America Safe for Electronic Commerce

By JOHN M. BRODER

**N**OT too long ago in America, the chief threats to personal privacy were the snoopy neighbor and the party-line eavesdropper.

Then came J. Edgar Hoover and Richard M. Nixon, using the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service to dig up — and dish out — dirt on private citizens.

The credit card, the supermarket scanner and the toll-free telephone number gave private businesses new avenues to pry into lives and buying habits — where we shop and what we buy, where we eat and what we wear. What was hidden in Queen Victoria's day is laid bare before the all-knowing 800-number order-takers of Victoria's Secret.

Still, all that looks pretty primitive com-

**Advertisers, and worse, can track your travels on the Web. The Government is looking into this.**



**With personal data already flying around the Internet, consumers add more with each transaction.**

pared to the threats to personal privacy posed by the growth of the electronic marketplace of the Internet.

Today, it's not Ernestine the telephone operator who is the threat. It's "cookies" and "spam."

These technological tricks are making millions of potential Internet consumers reluctant to journey into cyberspace — and shop there — because of queasiness about the privacy of their electronic communications and suspicion that their names will be put to crass commercial uses.

And when information about people's Web-browsing habits is combined with the reams of personal data coursing through cyberspace, from credit histories to bankruptcy court records to real estate data, the potential for abuse multiplies.

That is what's new — and scary — about the Internet. And unless and until these concerns are addressed, experts say, mil-

ions of would-be Web browsers — and shoppers — will stay away, throttling a potentially gigantic industry.

Most computer users resent receiving "spam" — unsolicited E-mail advertisements — and those who are aware of "cookies" — electronic tags that record what Internet sites a Web browser visits — either want them hocked or want notice before any record of their travels around the Internet is compiled.

**Under Surveillance**

The Internet and the technology underlying it give companies abilities they never had before to learn intimate details about potential customers. And despite what Internet merchants profess, there is a fundamental difference between virtual shopping on the

Web and browsing in a store.

"If you belong to a frequent buyer club at the bookstore, they probably keeps a record of the books you buy," said Christine Varney, a member of the Federal Trade Commission, which held hearings this month on Internet privacy concerns. "But no one follows you around the store and keeps track of what you looked at and how long you looked at it before your bought."

That's what the cookies on a computer's hard drive enable a Web site operator to do. Don't want your employer to know that you took a surreptitious trip to the pornography site "Genital Hospital" on your lunch hour? Too bad. You probably left an electronic cookie crumb on your hard drive.

Those records provide invaluable information for marketers who can use them to pinpoint customers for their products. By

following your Internet "clickstream," they can learn about your hobbies, your shopping preferences, your medical condition, your reading habits, your political predilections.

The White House and the F.T.C., which has authority to police unfair trade practices — including those conducted in cyberspace — are exploring what new laws or regulations will be needed to protect personal privacy while fostering the growth of electronic commerce.

**We'll Do It Ourselves**

Companies from the Microsoft Corporation to the McGraw-Hill Companies sent representatives to the F.T.C. hearings to pledge their efforts to protect the confidentiality of their customers' transactions. Give us a chance to regulate ourselves, they ar-

gued, before imposing some restrictive new Government regime.

Gerald Cerasale of the Direct Marketing Association, one of many who spoke on behalf of businesses involved in electronic commerce, said that while the technology is new, privacy issues are no different from those raised by doing business over the telephone or through newspaper want ads.

"The same principles apply to new media as to old media," Mr. Cerasale said. "What's new is the rapidity and the reduction in expense."

Jerry Berman of the Center for Democracy and Technology, a civil liberties group in Washington that focuses on Internet policy, said that technology may be the answer to the problems posed by technology.

A consortium of Internet companies is working on a program for personal computers that would automatically tell Web site operators what personal information the user is willing to share. And such a device is the only solution to a decentralized global computer network that is beyond the reach of any Government to monitor or regulate, Mr. Berman said.

"We have to develop mechanisms that allow consumers to control information about themselves, the content they look at and where they're going on the Net," he said. "That's the privacy equation."

But Ms. Varney of the F.T.C. and her fellow commissioners are not yet convinced of that.

"Three things must exist for electronic commerce to prosper," Ms. Varney said. "Ease, ubiquity and trust. Technology can take care of the first two. But how can consumers be sure that their transactions are secure and private? How do they know when they click on L.L. Bean that they're getting the company and not some impostor?"

"The question we're grappling with," she added, "is whether Government has a role in creating that trust."

Network Farm Teams

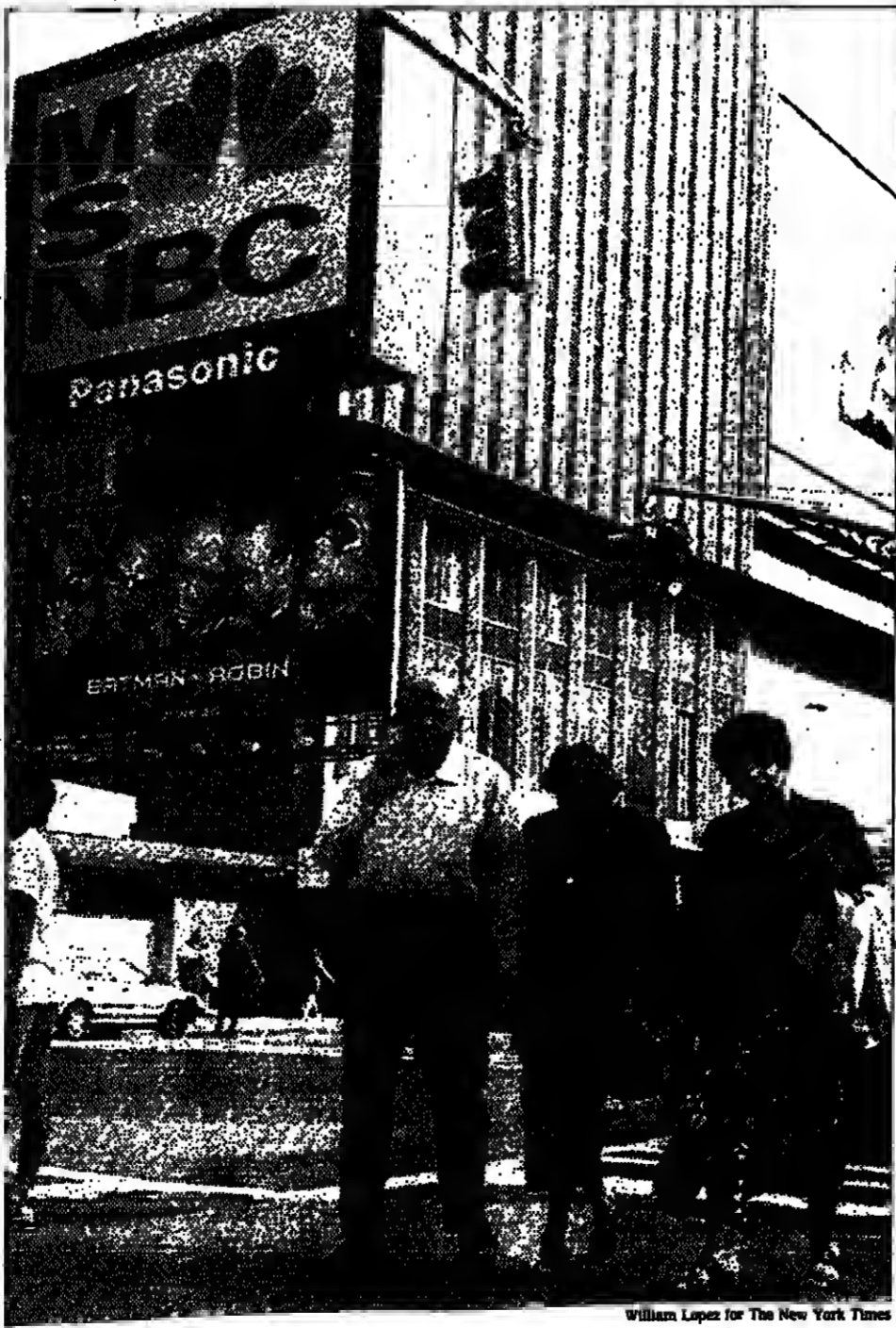
## The Logic of Losing at All-News TV

By MARK LANDLER

**I**F a television network starts a 24-hour news channel and nobody watches, does it exist?

That is a question Brian Williams might ponder as he approaches his first anniversary as the anchor of MSNBC's nightly news program. Last month, an average of 27,000 television households tuned in each night to Mr. Williams, whose hour-long show airs at 9 P.M. on NBC's cable news channel. With those ratings, Mr. Williams could get as many viewers if he anchored the local news in Zanesville, Ohio, or Fairbanks, Alaska.

And Mr. Williams, the former White House correspondent of NBC News, is one of the higher-rated stars on MSNBC. All told, the network gets a 24-hour Nielsen rating of 0.1, which represents 24,000 homes. MSNBC's rival, the Fox News Channel, draws just 10,000 homes. Even the granddaddy of the nonstop news business,



These Times Square pedestrians ignore MSNBC, and NBC doesn't much care.

**Nonstop news is a ratings flop. Hey, no prob, say executives.**

CNN, was watched in an average of only 274,000 homes last month — a 7 percent decline from the previous month.

Those numbers are puny stacked alongside the almost 8 million homes Mr. Williams reached most nights on NBC News. Cable news channels may be a ubiquitous feature of the Information Age, but that does not mean people are actually bothering to watch them.

Some media experts say the problem is demographics. "News has become an old product," said Reese Schonfeld, a veteran cable-television executive who oversaw the launch of CNN in 1980. "All these networks think they're competing with each other, but they're really confronting a generational crisis in the viewership of news."

Or maybe the networks just don't care how many people tune in. True, the Nielsen ratings will always be a way for broadcasters to keep score. But unlike their big network colleagues at the low end of the dial, cable news executives measure success by more than how many eyeballs they capture.

"The goal is a lot more complicated," said Roger Ailes, the chairman of Fox News, which is owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation. "This isn't like the old days of TV when people said, 'If I don't break even in a couple of years, I'm

the opportunity to your competitor," said Andrew Ehrenberg, a professor of marketing at South Bank University in London who has written about television viewing patterns.

MSNBC is a good example. After NBC and Microsoft started the network last year, ABC News opted not to launch its own 24-hour service. In the all-important New York City market, NBC kept Fox off the dial by signing a deal first with the local cable operator, Time Warner.

The marketing value of these channels is hard to calculate, but the networks are milking them for every glimmer of publicity. MSNBC relentlessly plugs both its on-air stars, like Mr. Williams and Jane Pauley, and its corporate connection to Microsoft. NBC, in turn, plugs MSNBC when, for example, it cuts to the junior network's studios for updates during "Nightly News" broadcasts.

Such cross-fertilization helps the parent network: Mr. Williams is getting a valuable dress rehearsal on MSNBC before his expected elevation to Tom Brokaw's perch at NBC News. And the public is being prepared for his ascension.

**Status Symbols**

News channels also have prestige value because they can be used to create an aura that their corporate owners run vast, state-of-the-art news organizations. A bright red electronic news ticker sets off Fox's street-level studios in midtown Manhattan, while visitors to Times Square can gaze at silent images from MSNBC and CNBC on a mammoth television screen.

Sure, many choose not to. But from a financial perspective, MSNBC's Lilliputian viewership is of scant concern to NBC or its parent, General Electric. The network gets the channel on the cheap by reusing material from NBC News, thereby more than halving the \$250 million in annual expenses MSNBC would otherwise incur. And Microsoft is licking in \$200 million of its own over five years. For Mr. Mupfloh, who does not have a broadcast news division to plunder, the Fox cable channel is a more costly proposition.

For all the compensations, though, lousy ratings still rankle. NBC and Fox are feuding these days over which news channel has the smaller prime-time audience (in April, MSNBC did; in May, it was Fox). And Andrew Lack, the president of NBC News, insists that MSNBC's viewership spiked whenever there was dramatic news, like the verdict in the O. J. Simpson civil trial.

"I don't want to sound naive; we all want audience," Mr. Lack said.

"But what's difficult for some people to understand is that you can have a pretty decent business with a very small audience."

## Now, the Enemies Need Each Other

Continued From Page 1

by Congress, any of which could trip up the deal. Here are some examples:

¶The power of the Food and Drug Administration to regulate nicotine and other tobacco ingredients probably needs to be broadened and clarified. The agreement says the agency may order nicotine eliminated from cigarettes after 12 years, but must let Congress review such action. Some anti-smoking groups will press for immediate reductions of nicotine levels, but tobacco companies can fight back with the argument that such controls will lead to a black market in full-nicotine cigarettes.

¶The agreement assumes that Congress will limit lawsuits and damage claims against tobacco companies. Pending class-action lawsuits will be "legislatively settled," and "future class-action lawsuits based on past conduct of the tobacco companies will not be allowed." The tobacco deal could easily become spangled up in debate over a separate bill to limit product-liability lawsuits. Manufacturers and insurers have been seeking such limits for nearly two decades, but consumer groups and plaintiffs' lawyers have resisted them.

¶Federal law must be revised to require tougher warnings on cigarette packs. The tobacco companies' position on this legislation will provide an early test of their alliance with anti-smoking forces.

¶A bill to curb smoking in public places and in most workplaces is to be enacted into law. The bill was written by Representative Henry A. Waxman, Democrat of California, an ardent foe of tobacco. Cigarette companies want to exempt restaurants, casinos and bars, as allowed under the agreement. Anti-smoking forces will press for even stricter local laws.

Some lawmakers want Congress to go further. Senator Kennedy, for example, said the Federal Government should receive compensation for tobacco-related health costs incurred under Medicare and Medicaid, just as 40 states will recoup billions of dollars to offset their Medicaid costs.

Likewise, Senator Ron Wyden, Democrat of Oregon, said he would try to limit tobacco companies' access to lucrative foreign markets, so they could not "finance the settlement by adding millions of youngsters overseas to tobacco products." Tobacco companies are sure to fight such restrictions.

There is still plenty to fight over.



# The World

## In Principle, a Case For More 'Sweatshops'

By ALLEN R. MYERSON

**F**OR more than a century, accounts of sweatshops have provoked outrage. From the works of Charles Dickens and Lincoln Steffens to today's television reports, the image of workers hunched over their machines for meager rewards has been a banner of reform.

Last year, companies like Nike and Wal-Mart and celebrities like Kathie Lee Gifford struggled to defend themselves after reports of the torturous hours and low pay of the workers who produce their upscale footwear or downmarket fashions. Anxious corporate spokesmen sought to explain the plants as a step up for workers in poor countries. A weeping Mrs. Gifford denied knowing about the conditions.

Now some of the nation's leading economists, with solid liberal and academic credentials, are offering a much broader, more principled rationale. Economists like Jeffrey D. Sachs of Harvard and Paul Krugman of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology say that low-wage plants making clothing and shoes for foreign markets are an essential first step toward modern prosperity in developing countries.

Mr. Sachs, a leading adviser and shock therapist to nations like Bolivia, Russia and Poland, is now working on the toughest cases of all, the economies of sub-Saharan Africa. He is just back from Malawi, where malaria afflicts almost all its 13 million people and AIDS affects 1 in 10; the lake that provided much of the country's nourishment is fished out.

When asked during a recent Harvard panel discussion whether there were too many sweatshops in such places, Mr. Sachs answered facetiously. "My concern is not that there are too many sweatshops but that there are too few," he said.

Mr. Sachs, who has visited low-wage factories around the world, is opposed to child or prisoner labor and other outright abuses. But many nations, he says, have no better hope than plants paying mere subsistence wages. "Those are precisely the jobs that were the steppingstone for Singapore and Hong Kong," he said, "and those are the jobs that have to come to Africa to get them out of their backbreaking rural poverty."

### Rising Stakes

The stakes in the battle over sweatshops are high and rising. Clinton Administration officials say commerce with the major developing nations like China, Indonesia and Mexico is crucial for America's own continued prosperity. Corporate America's manufacturing investments in developing nations more than tripled in 15 years to \$56 billion in 1995 — not including the vast numbers of plants there that contract with American companies.

In matters of trade and commerce, economists like Mr. Sachs, who has also worked with several Government agencies, are influential. A consensus among economists helped persuade President Clinton, who had campaigned against President Bush's plan of lowered restric-

tions, to ram global and North American trade pacts through Congress.

Paradoxically, economists' support of sweatshops represents a sort of optimism. Until the mid-1980's, few thought that third world nations could graduate to first world status in a lifetime, if ever. "When I went to graduate school in the early to mid-1970's," Mr. Krugman said, "it looked like being a developed country was really a closed club." Only Japan had made a convincing jump within the past century.

Those economists who believed that developing nations could advance often prescribed self-reliance and socialism, warning against foreign investment as a form of imperialism. Advanced nations invested in the developing world largely to extract oil, coffee, bananas and other resources but created few new jobs or industries. Developing nations, trying to lessen their reliance on manufactured imports, tried to bolster domestic industries for the home market. But these protected businesses were often inefficient and the local markets too small to sustain them.

### From Wigs to Cars

Then the Four Tigers — Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan — began to roar. They made apparel, toys, shoes and, at least in South Korea's case, wigs and false teeth, mostly for export. Within a generation, their national incomes climbed from about 10 percent to 40 percent of American incomes. Singapore welcomed foreign plant owners while South Korea shunned them, building industrial conglomerates of its own. But the first stage of development had one constant. "It's always sweatshops," Mr. Krugman said.

These same nations now export cars and computers, and the economists have revised their views of sweatshops. "The overwhelming mainstream view among economists is that the growth of this kind of employment is tremendous good news for the world's poor," Mr. Krugman said.

Unlike the corporate apologists, economists make no attempt to prettify the sweatshop picture. Mr. Krugman, who writes a column for Slate magazine called "The Dismal Scientist," describes sweatshop owners as "soulless multinationals and rapacious local entrepreneurs, whose only concern was to take advantage of the profit opportunities offered by cheap labor." But even in a nation as corrupt as Indonesia, he says, industrialization has reduced the portion of malnourished children from more than half in 1975 to a third today.

In judging the issue of child labor also, Mr. Krugman is a pragmatist, asking what else is available. It often isn't education. In India, for example, destitute parents sometimes sell their children to Persian Gulf begging syndicates whose bosses mutilate them for a higher take, he says. "If that is the alternative, it is not so easy to say that children should not be working in factories," Mr. Krugman said.

Not that most economists argue for sweatshops at home. The United States, they say, can afford to set much higher labor standards than poor countries — though Europe's are so high, some say, that high unemployment results.



Salvadorans at work. Some economists think low wage factory labor can help poor countries advance.

Labor leaders and politicians who challenge sweatshops abroad say that they harm American workers as well, stealing jobs and lowering wages — a point that some economists dispute. "It is especially galling when American workers lose jobs to places where workers are really being exploited," said Mark Levinson, chief economist at the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, who argues for trade sanctions to enforce global labor rules.

Yet when corporations voluntarily cut their ties to sweatshops, the victims can be the very same people sweatshop opponents say they want to help. In Honduras, where the legal working age is 14, girls toiled 75 hours a

week for the 31-cent hourly minimum to make the Kathie Lee Gifford clothing line for Wal-Mart. When Wal-Mart canceled its contract, the girls lost their jobs and blamed Mrs. Gifford.

### No Jobs in Practice

Mr. Krugman blames American self-righteousness, or guilt over Indonesian women and children sewing sneakers at 60 cents an hour. "A policy of good jobs in principle, but no jobs in practice, might assuage our consciences," he said, "but it is no favor to its alleged beneficiaries."

## War in Cambodia Goes On (and On)

Continued From Page 1

an embittered United States, which had dropped bombs all over Indochina, denied Hanoi recognition and investment dollars for nearly 20 years after the fall of Saigon.

American capital and development — including roads that the Vietnamese can only dream of — rained on Thailand during the war. United States troops and planes found a home and a lot of good times. Thais, until they belatedly concluded that an American military presence would not serve their regional interests, prospered by the arrangement.

### Missed Opportunity

The Thai economy, however troubled, now dominates Laos, which America bombed to box in the Vietnamese, and where it armed anti-communist hill people. Many Hmong were abandoned by their American paymasters and left in refugee camps in Thailand. Laos, always fragile, has yet to recover from its role as ideological battleground.

But it is in Cambodia that the Vietnam War itself seems never to have ended. Cambodia was everybody's opportunity. The Vietnamese used it as a sanctuary for North Vietnamese troops and Viet Cong while talking of a federation of Indochinese states (dragging in the hapless Lao) that sounded very similar to what the French had planned half a century earlier. The communists in Beijing and Hanoi courted Cambodia's radical leftist movement, which Prince Norodom Sihanouk had first called, disdainfully, the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge had, paradoxically, picked up their communist education in France. The Prince, who found himself in opposition in the 1970's, flirted with them enough to give Pol Pot credence with many Cambodians and served briefly and disastrously as their figurehead when they took power in 1975.

By then the United States had waded clumsily into Cambodia to support the anti-communist Lon Nol Government that had overthrown Prince Sihanouk's original regime in March 1970. Secret American bombing raids into Cambodian territory in violation of Congressional restrictions, com-

pounded by an American-South Vietnamese invasion, helped the Khmer Rouge recruit new followers, although many Cambodians say now that the raids were probably not the most critical factor in Pol Pot's rise to power, given the support he got from the Vietnamese and China — and from Norodom Sihanouk.

The fall of Phnom Penh to the Khmer Rouge in 1975, days ahead of the fall of Saigon, did not end American, Chinese or Vietnamese involvement in Cambodia. The war soon went on by proxy, with a part of the Khmer Rouge movement drawing closer to Vietnam as another faction threatened Hanoi's interests. In December 1978, Vietnam invaded, setting up a cooperative government the next month under Hun Sen, a former Khmer Rouge — who is today the country's Second Prime Minister. China was furious and marched over the border into Vietnam to teach the

### American bombs were not the only factor in Pol Pot's rise to power.

Vietnamese a lesson. The Vietnamese taught them instead.

When the defeated Khmer Rouge fled toward the Thai frontier, they were drawn into an unholy alliance with the Cambodian royalists and a small, more democratic and moderate faction under Son Sann. China and the United States were among those who gave the alliance diplomatic and material support. Eager to rid Cambodia of the Vietnamese, Beijing and Washington, strongly supported by other Southeast Asian nations ready to seize economic opportunities in Indochina, forced Hanoi's withdrawal and engineered a peace treaty that put all factions back in play in Phnom Penh in 1992.

Until recently, it appeared that the Vietnam War had finally ended in Cambodia. Last week, the Cambodians struck up the music, and a new game of musical chairs began.

### Too Little? Too Late?

## The Foreign Aid Gamble in Africa

By RAYMOND BONNER

**I**T was a high-powered team that President Clinton sent to meet with the new Government here: the United States representative to the United Nations, Bill Richardson; an assistant secretary of State; an admiral; a senior member of the National Security Council; a senior spy, a member of Congress.

But "the center of attraction," as Mr. Richardson said in introducing the delegation to Congolese officials, was the man from the Agency for International Development, Richard McCall. "He has the money," Mr. Richardson said of Mr. McCall, third in command at the agency that doles out American largesse.

All the new Congolese President, Laurent Kabila, has to do to get the money is become a democrat and free-market capitalist. Reinforcing that message, Commerce and Treasury officials were along, dangling financial lures. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were close behind.

"Bribery," some critics sneer, but diplomats prefer to call offers of aid "carrots" — as opposed to "sticks," the economic sanctions and public condemnations of human rights abuses that have been applied in Iran, Iraq, Libya, Cuba and Burma. Whatever the label, why are American taxpayers being asked to dump millions of dollars into Congo, the giant Central African country that was so recently Zaire?

During the cold war, Washington opened the vault to the good, the bad and the ugly, just to keep them on America's side. Zaire's former President for life, Mobutu Sese Seko, was one dictator who qualified. But these days it is hard to find a geopolitical interest at stake in Congo.

### Diplomats, Not Missionaries

It could be argued that Washington and the West have a moral obligation, after catering to Mr. Mobutu while he looted Zaire and drove its populace into poverty. There are humanitarian impulses, to save children from malnutrition, to put books in schools and medicines in hospitals. But as Henry Kissinger said, the conduct of foreign policy is not missionary work.

There is, however, another reason for extending a hand to the leaders of Africa's third largest country: the self-interest of avoiding another international disaster. "If they fail, this country will explode," said Frederick Racke, the Dutch ambassador here. "We will have another Yugoslavia, on a continental scale."

Such an apocalyptic view cannot be dismissed out of hand — Congo has some 200 ethnic groups, and it borders nine other countries. But will financial help from the West save Congo from



In his first speech as President, Laurent Kabila dismissed calls for quick elections in Congo

becoming another Rwanda, where the horrors ultimately impelled Washington to act?

Not in the view of the Cato Institute. "Foreign aid" has not delivered self-sustaining economic growth or prevented the collapse of numerous poor societies into chaos over the past five decades," said Doug Bandow, a senior fellow at the research organization in Washington and author of a report, "Help or Hindrance: Can Foreign Aid Prevent International Crises?"

He cited \$1.8 billion in aid to Sierra Leone, \$3.1 billion to Haiti, \$6.2 billion to Somalia — all of which descended into civil disorder.

Aid advocates say it would be just as illogical to look at the far longer list of aid recipients that have not imploded and to conclude that aid was the reason. Policymakers also argue that without aid, Washington loses influence and leverage. The argument has merit, but history suggests both carrots and sticks are needed, and Washington has been reluctant to wield the latter.

A few years ago an outspoken American Ambassador, Smith Hempstone, publicly criticized Kenya every time it shut down a newspaper or jailed a dissident. It was rare conduct for an ambassador, not appreciated in Nairobi (or, for that matter, in the State Department), but it nudged Kenya's president, Daniel Arap Moi, closer to democracy than he wanted to go.

Diplomats say Mr. Kabila will also have to be prodded. There is nothing in his background to suggest that he will be a democrat, though some meo around him have democratic desires.

Responding to the lure of aid, Mr. Kabila assured Mr. Richardson that he would allow a U.N. team to investigate whether his forces murdered Hutu refugees, and that he would let relief workers reach the surviving refugees.

### Assurances, of a Kind

But be conditioned the investigation on replacing the U.N. team's head, refused to say whether anyone would be punished if massacres were proven and refused ask his troops to respect relief workers. This brought criticism from those workers and human rights groups, who wished that the United States had been tougher.

The Clinton Administration says that any aid will depend on Mr. Kabila achieving political and economic reforms. But Congo needs immediate help, to revive the country and to enable the Government to pay civil servants and soldiers before they resort to old habits of demanding bribes and stealing. If the West acts too soon, Mr. Kabila may find it easy to ignore the calls for reform. If the West waits to see what he will do, it may be too late to help him.

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ECONOMY

# The Heir is Clearly Apparent at Comcast Corp.

By GERALDINE FABRIKANT

**R**ALPH ROBERTS, the dapper 77-year-old founder of the Comcast Corporation, loves to follow the ups and downs of other family businesses and try to figure out what makes some thrive and others implode. "There are the families that destroy each other as soon as the father or mother dies," Mr. Roberts said. "They come in and tear each other apart. The Gettys or that family in Texas," he continued, referring to Harold Simmons, the Texas investor who is at war with his daughters. "They are all billionaires, and they're fighting like crazy over another billion."

Mr. Roberts has reason to track the way family-run companies pass the baton from one generation to the next. He has five children, aged 36 to 47. Only his fourth child, Brian, is at Comcast, the nation's fourth-largest cable television operator with \$4 billion in revenue last year. And by the end of this year, the elder Mr. Roberts will increase Brian's control over the company's special class of 8.8 million shares that represent nearly 82 percent of Comcast's vote. It is only natural for the world to wonder: How will Brian's siblings react to all this?

The potential for conflict is obvious. The Roberts clan's equity stake

in Comcast, based in Philadelphia, is worth at least \$470 million without a premium, and once the patriarch and his wife pass from the scene, there is no guarantee the heirs won't hurl themselves into a fierce battle for the spoils.

But the elder Mr. Roberts has probably come as close as any company founder can to setting the stage for an orderly succession. His plan is to turn over the votes to Brian but make sure to divide the financial pie fairly among all the offspring. Through many aging entrepreneurs resist relinquishing power despite all their promises to do so, Comcast has begun notifying local cable commissions of the pending change of control, which Ralph Roberts said would be no later than early next year.

And experts say the odds of a successful transition are greater at Comcast than at most family businesses. Mr. Roberts has by all accounts done a skillful job of grooming Brian to fill his shoes so that he is both respected by his peers and supported by his siblings. While no one doubts that the father still calls a lot of the shots, he has eased his son into high-profile positions both at the bargaining table and in the public eye. In a family business, even the strongest allegiances can crack under the strain of a mismanaged transition at the top, but people familiar with Comcast say the younger Mr. Roberts is proving his mettle.

That was evident earlier this month when Brian Roberts and the founder of Microsoft, Bill Gates, struck a deal in which Microsoft agreed to pay \$1 billion for an 11.5 percent stake in Comcast. The deal put the cable company on a far larger corporate map. "We had 650 analysts on the conference call to discuss the deal," recalled Brian Roberts, who handled the call for Comcast. "Usually we have about 200."

Even as he is promoting his son, the elder Mr. Roberts is looking after the financial interests of his other children. He never pressured any of them to join the family company — and none besides Brian showed any interest in doing so. Today, Ralph Jr. is a professor of psychology at the University of Denver, and the other three all live near their parents in Philadelphia, where Lisa has a design business, Cathy is involved in philanthropy and Douglas is an assistant District Attorney.

And all of them are rich. The elder Mr. Roberts has made sure that each of Brian's siblings will retain an economic stake in Comcast equal their brother's. The five children and their parents jointly own the holding company that owns Comcast's supervising shares. And to prevent his other heirs from putting pressure on Brian to sell Comcast — an issue that has torn many families apart — Mr. Roberts is struggling with a way to give them nonvoting stock that they could cash in without disturbing their brother's grip on the company.

"The children — the family — have continual discussions," he said during an interview in which he was joined by Brian, dressed like his father in a gray suit, black loafers, a white button-down shirt and red tie.

A few weeks ago, the five Roberts children — leaving behind both mates and children — spent a day with their parents for freewheeling talks on everything from personal concerns to financial matters.

Family-business experts say the family is something of an anomaly in devising a smooth transfer between generations. "This is a relatively unusual situation," said Leon Danco, president of the Center for Family Studies. "The father is open. Many entrepreneurs are very secretive. It is a sign of a man who has given considerable thought to the future and has spoken to his other children. What is more common is that this kind of agreement does not happen. To make it work, you have to have motivated, competent successors as well as accommodating heirs. If a family has to go to law court to determine what is fair, the issue is what's the law, not what is fair."

It helps, of course, that only one of the children desperately wanted to follow in Dad's footsteps. "I think we have known that Brian would take over the company since he was about 8 years old," said Julian Brodsky, Comcast's vice chairman and Mr. Roberts's alter ego for the last 34 years.

When Brian was 8, Comcast was a fledgling cable operator that Ralph Roberts had founded after jumping in and out of a handful of other businesses. His main goal at the time was to make a lot of money. He had been born into an affluent home, the son of the owner of a small drugstore chain in Westchester County, N.Y. For a time, the family even had a chauffeur. But during the Depression, Mr. Roberts recalled, "my father died, and we lost all our money. People who never had a financial problem in their lives can never understand what terror there is in that."

He credits his mother for pulling the family through hard times. "She had a lot of friends, and she decided to go into the insurance business, and everybody she knew bought a policy from her the first year to keep us going," he said. "We moved into an apartment with my aunt in Philadelphia. I went to the University of Pennsylvania. I lived at home." To support himself at college, he took on a variety of odd jobs, including selling milk.

Once Mr. Roberts began building Comcast, Brian, alone of his brood, frequented the company premises. Luckily, the youngster had business



Comcast chairman Ralph Roberts and son Brian, who will succeed him.

smarts as well as enthusiasm. If he hadn't, his father confesses, "I probably would have sold the company."

That would have been a wrenching decision, as it almost invariably is for the founder of a company. "There is something about wanting to pass things on," he said. "It is the same thing as giving birth — or having another generation. But if Brian were not up to it, he would not have stood a chance because you can't sacrifice all the people in the place for a poor manager."

Or an arrogant one. "The most dangerous thing is a son or daughter coming into a business where they think they get special treatment," Mr. Roberts said. "They drag the business down because it kills the morale of everybody in the company."

After Brian received an undergraduate business degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1981, Ralph Roberts tried to steer him to another company, where he would have to fight his own battles. But the son wanted to stay in the family business, so Mr. Roberts started him off in the trenches, stringing cable in New Kensington, Pa. "We were lucky because the cable business was growing and growing," Mr. Roberts recalled. There was plenty of room to give the son a shot.

But as Brian Roberts worked his way up the ladder, the halcyon 1980's came to an end. The 1990's have been far tougher, as regulation and skepticism about the industry's future in the face of rival technologies hurt cable stocks. Like many other cable companies, Comcast peaked in late 1993, at \$28.17 a share. It bottomed out at \$16.375 last March and has recovered slightly, closing at \$21.375 on Friday on Nasdaq.

ALL along, however, Mr. Roberts has drawn his son closer to the center of action inside Comcast and pushed him into the spotlight outside the company. "I thought if he was so young, you really have to be helped to be promoted to make it appear that you really are your own person," the elder Mr. Roberts recalled. "Every chance I get I step back and say, 'Here is Brian.' I didn't want it to appear that he was just his father's son."

For example, it was Brian Roberts who was on the board of Turner Broadcasting before Time Warner bought it in 1996, and it was Brian who was president of the National Cable Television Association's board in 1995.

Promoting an heir apparent may have been easier for the elder Mr. Roberts than for other entrepreneurs. Investors who know him say he always prefers to remain in the background and let others like

Mr. Brodsky, the vice chairman, take the limelight. "I used to talk to Julian all the time," recalled Gordoo Crawford, a senior vice president at the Capital Group, whose funds hold 8.1 percent of Comcast's class A stock. "I would see Ralph about once a year."

Brian Roberts, on the other hand, seems to relish his public role. "He gives more speeches than anyone who is asked," said one media executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "But if it were not for self-promotion, how would a guy like Bill Gates take him seriously?"

Brian Roberts came to know Mr. Gates when a contingent of Comcast executives visited Microsoft on a fact-finding tour several years ago. They have met at the investment bank Allen & Company's annual Sun Valley Conference for media heavyweights, and they got together last summer when Mr. Gates came to speak at a United Way fund-raising event in Philadelphia.

The recent deal was begun when the executive committee of CableJobs, the cable industry's research and development arm that included Brian Roberts and John Malone, chairman of Tele-Communications Inc., the country's largest cable operator, visited Microsoft in late April. Mr. Gates told the group he believed the cable industry had been slow to upgrade its systems. Brian Roberts countered that other companies, including Comcast, were aggressively upgrading. Later, the two men found themselves in the same restaurant, and Mr. Roberts suggested that Microsoft consider investing in cable. Mr. Gates was warm to the idea. A result was Microsoft's \$1 billion investment in Comcast.

As Gregory B. Maffei, Microsoft's treasurer, sees it, the younger Mr. Roberts is no pawn of his father. On the contrary, he says, "Brian takes the lead and is the one forging ahead and trying to figure out where they are going," Mr. Maffei said. "Brian is the more active participant."

And Peter Barton, the former president of Liberty Media, recalled that Brian Roberts played the key role in a complicated deal with Liberty involving the purchase of Time Warner's stake in E Entertainment, a cable-service company, for \$321 million. Brian brought in the Walt Disney Company to put up most of the funds for the acquisition, even though Comcast management gained effective control of E Entertainment.

"Deals like Microsoft and QVC would not have happened without Brian," said Steven Rattner, deputy chief executive of Lazard Frères & Company, who has worked with the family for about a decade. "Ralph and Julian have been intimately involved, but Ralph doesn't sit there

until 4 A.M. in the lawyers' offices anymore. Now Brian typically takes the lead."

To be sure, he adds, "At an important fork in the road, Brian will go off to his father" to get the older man's stamp of approval.

The company is clearly planning for the day that Ralph Roberts will no longer be running the show. Over the last five years, it has brought in a younger team of senior executives to work with Brian, including the executive vice president, Larry Smith, 49; the senior treasurer, John Alchin, 48; and the president of the cable division, Tom Baxter, 50.

The son, meanwhile, remains an understudy of the father — and the father is impressing upon the son the need to play hardball when the occasion demands it.

In 1994, for example, Ralph Roberts scuttled a bid by Barry Diller, then the chairman of QVC, the home-shopping cable channel, to acquire CBS. The deal would have relegated Comcast, the biggest QVC shareholder, to be a minor, and passive, investor in CBS, and the elder Mr. Roberts wanted no part of that. So he made his own bid for QVC, with TCI as a partner, effectively killing the CBS deal.

The memory of the fiasco still rankles Mr. Diller. "Ralph is tough," he says ruefully. "Under that bow tie and courtly manner beats the heart of one tough man. He is steel."

Ralph Roberts acknowledges that he was the heavy. "I was probably the one to pull the curtain," he said. "Barry is very charismatic and hypnotic, but we were not going to lose our business and become a nonvoting stockholder of CBS to provide Barry with an entree to CBS." Then, chuckling, he added, "It was probably a very good lesson for Brian — no question about it."

The son got the point. His father's greatest skill, he said, "is the ability to make the hard decision at the crucial moment."

Once the elder Mr. Roberts is out of the picture at Comcast, Wall Street will be watching closely to see whether the son can be as tough and decisive as his father. It is a skill that Brian Roberts knows he has yet to prove and that is rare among the sons of powerful men, who are often overwhelmed by their fathers.

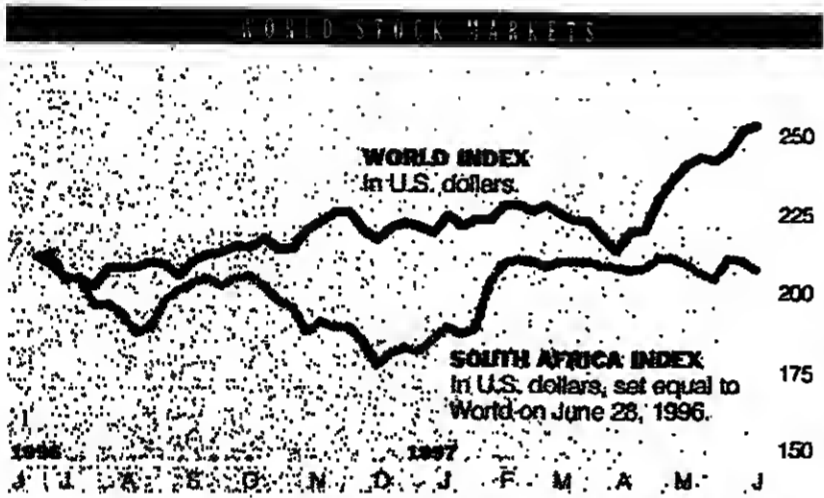
"It has been wonderful to share those tense moments with your father," Brian Roberts said, "and hopefully, it has prepared me for the future."

Brian Roberts acknowledges that decision making, what he calls "pulling the trigger," is something you learn. "Hopefully, I have had more experience than most people," he said, "but you never know."

At least Comcast has the financial flexibility to make the transition work. Like many media entrepreneurs, Ralph Roberts created several classes of stock, enabling him to issue equity without losing control. In 1963, the year he founded the company, he created Comcast class B shares, of which there are 8.8 million, each with 15 votes. The company also has 33 million shares of common stock with one vote each and 284 million K shares with no votes. The family holding company owns all the supervising shares, as well as 1.8 million of the class A shares and 5.3 million of the nonvoting shares. In addition, Ralph Roberts personally owns another 5.2 million nonvoting shares, as well as 319,000 class A shares.

Just as important, family-business experts say the apparent harmony within the Roberts family bodes well for the chances of a smooth transition. Mr. Roberts has been married to his wife, Suzanne, for 54 years. And the other children, who declined to be interviewed, are said to be knowledgeable about the plan and favorable to it.

"All this would never have happened in the arms of a second wife," according to Mr. Danco. "When some guy decides that he is so important that he dismisses Mama for some 35-year-old trophy, then I don't know what is fair. There are too many other combatants, and it becomes another deal. This is a pretty good chance of working. It is the mother who will make it work."



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Index, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

Country	IN U.S. DOLLARS			IN LOCAL CURR.				
	Index	Week % Chg.	YTD % Chg.	Index	Week % Chg.	YTD % Chg.		
Australia	240.62	2.6	6	8.4	15	3.61	213.03	14.6
Austria	193.52	-0.3	18	1.9	23	1.91	174.15	14.6
Belgium	251.52	-1.2	23	10.5	13	3.22	221.75	24.3
Brazil	289.33	1.1	12	52.5	1	1.27	574.01	58.2
Britain	300.08	-2.6	27	6.0	19	3.76	268.98	9.6
Canada	209.49	-1.6	26	10.4	14	1.85	211.03	12.0
Denmark	390.59	0.9	13	11.0	12	1.44	350.40	24.1
Denmark	274.61	-0.4	19	11.8	10	1.84	299.05	25.9
Finland	224.33	-1.4	25	4.6	21	2.76	205.69	17.8
Germany	218.33	1.4	11	14.9	8	1.44	196.60	29.2
Hong Kong	536.36	8.8	1	5.8	20	2.83	533.16	5.9
Indonesia	247.07	1.9	8	8.3	16	1.62	368.39	11.4
Ireland	349.86	-1.0	21	6.4	17	2.90	326.74	19.4
Italy	95.95	4.5	2	14.9	7	2.08	121.36	28.0
Japan	136.93	0.1	17	6.1	18	0.79	99.24	4.8
Malaysia	525.30	0.8	14	-12.9	26	1.34	506.76	-13.3
Mexico	1,582.64	4.3	3	29.7	3	1.35	1,376.50	31.2
Netherlands	397.83	2.3	7	18.3	6	2.20	353.78	33.3
New Zealand	93.13	2.6	5	1.5	24	3.98	72.18	4.6
Norway	308.60	-0.5	20	4.4	22	2.02	304.59	18.9
Philippines	170.71	1.7	9	-16.2	27	0.83	224.42	-15.9
Singapore	381.44	-1.1	22	-9.1	25	1.21	250.89	-7.3
South Africa	356.14	-1.3	24	11.8	9	2.46	351.06	7.8
Spain	261.37	1.5	10	18.9	5	2.28	289.30	33.6
Sweden	489.06	0.5	16	11.2	11	1.92	537.54	26.0
Switzerland	311.07	3.6	4	30.4	2	1.20	277.88	39.9
Thailand	49.44	-11.1	28	-48.4	28	6.25	49.95	-47.6
United States	363.96	0.7	15	20.6	4	1.69	363.96	20.6

Region	COMPOSITE INDICES		COMPOSITE INDICES			
	Index	% Chg.	Index	% Chg.		
Europe	287.48	-0.1	11.6	2.60	247.87	21.2
Pacific Basin	155.62	1.1	4.7	1.25	113.90	4.0
Europe/Pacific	202.30	0.4	8.5	1.99	164.45	13.1
World	256.19	0.5	14.3	1.84	226.54	16.7

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1997 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

Exchange rate	CURRENCIES			
	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	114.81	114.89	-0.06	109.15
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.7275	1.7386	-0.83	1.5345
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.3912	1.3807	+0.78	1.3645
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6559	1.6363	+1.19	1.5355

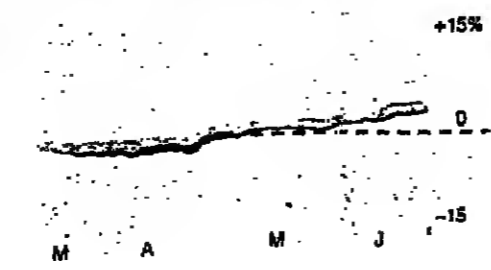
Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

## June 16-20: Tobacco Stocks Fall on News of \$360 Billion Settlement, but Dow Still Hits a High

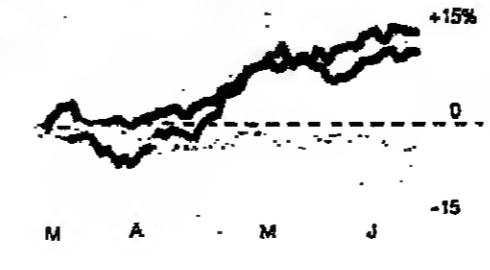
PRICES	
DOMESTIC EQUITIES	
Broad market S.&P. 500 index	Up 0.61% 898.70
Blue chips Dow 30 industrials	Up 0.19% 7,796.51
Small capitalization Russell 2000 index	Up 0.39% 383.60



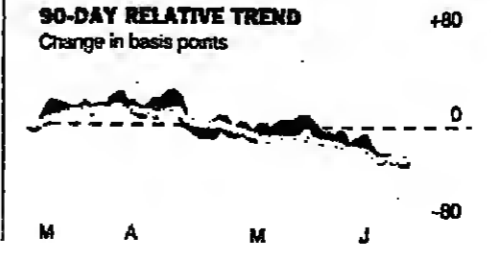
DOMESTIC BONDS	
Treasuries Ryan Labs. Total Return	Up 0.44% 200.14
Municipals Bond Buyer index	Up 0.23% 119.78
Corporates Merrill Lynch Master Index	Up 0.50% 880.06



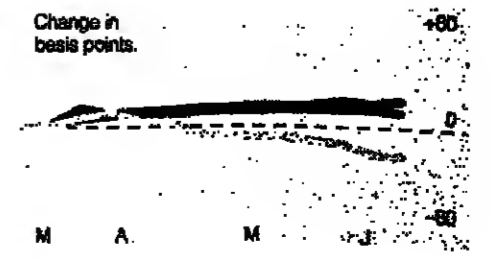
AROUND THE WORLD	
European stocks F.T.-Actuaries Europe	Down 0.12% 267.48
Asian stocks F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	Up 1.10% 155.62
Gold New York cash price	Down 1.08% \$339.40



YIELDS	
Long bonds	6.66%
30-year Treasuries	Down 6 basis pts.
Notes	5.99%
2-year Treasuries	Down 2 basis pts.
Municipals	5.58%
Bond Buyer index	Down 2 basis pts.



OTHER INVESTMENTS	
Money market funds Taxable average	5.03% Up 3 basis pts.
Bank C.D.'s	5.22%
1-year small savers	Down 1 basis pt.
Stocks S.&P. 500 dividend yield	1.71% Down 1 b.p.



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datastream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs



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Founded in 1851

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## No Hot Air on Global Warming

Five years ago, more than 100 world leaders came together for the first international Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, leaving a diaphanous trail of promises to clean the earth's atmosphere, save its rain forests and otherwise collaborate on common environmental challenges. Many of these leaders or their successors will convene at the United Nations this week to review their work. There is little to celebrate. The oceans are as polluted as ever, and deforestation proceeds at a ruinous pace. Perhaps the most conspicuous failure, however, involves the hugely contentious subject of global warming.

President Clinton cannot avoid addressing that issue when he speaks on Thursday. With only 4 percent of the world's population, the United States produces more than a fifth of the "greenhouse gases" like carbon dioxide that are contributing to a gradual and potentially disruptive warming of the earth's surface. Moreover, the United States has fallen well short of its Rio pledge to stabilize greenhouse emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000. Only two of the industrialized nations that joined in that pledge, Germany and Britain, are expected to meet their targets. The United States will exceed it by 13 percent or more.

The Administration has already conceded that the voluntary approach endorsed in Rio is not working and that it will accept "binding," enforceable targets on greenhouse emissions if other industrialized nations go along. Mr. Clinton does not have to go much beyond that in his speech. A global treaty will not be signed until a final meeting in Kyoto, Japan, in December. But he has to sketch the outlines of a credible and economically feasible plan aimed at the earliest possible reductions. He must also send a strong signal that if there is a final agreement in Kyoto, he and his Vice President, Al Gore, will work hard to get it through Congress. Any serious plan to reduce greenhouse gases will carry political risks because it will not be cost-free. Mr. Clinton's audience will want to know whether he and Mr. Gore are up to the challenge.

The President has one important thing going for him. There is a far broader scientific consensus on global warming than there was in Rio five years ago and there are many more creative ideas about how to address it. Here is where the issue stands.

**The Science.** One reason why the industrialized nations opted for voluntary targets in Rio was that mainstream scientists simply could not agree whether man-made emissions had contributed to the small rise in global temperatures that began late in the 19th century. In 1995, however, the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, consisting of about 2,500 scientists, concluded that they had. Their language was cautious, their forecasts were gloomy.

Unless the current rates of combustion of carbon-based fuels — coal, gas, oil — could be reduced, they warned, temperatures would rise between 1.8

and 6.3 degrees Fahrenheit over the next century. Temperature changes in the middle level of that scale could cause a 20-inch rise in sea levels that would flood coastal lowlands and tropical islands, an increase in weather extremes, and global damage to forests and croplands. Despite challenges from businesses, which have been attacking the science in tobacco-industry fashion, the U.N. panel has not retreated from its basic findings.

**Remedies and Costs.** About one-third of the atmosphere's greenhouse gases is produced by electric power plants, one-third by cars and trucks and one-third by other commercial enterprises and ordinary households. Reducing these gases not only means using less energy. It will also require expensive investments in cleaner fuels, cleaner cars and new technologies.

Some industrial spokesmen have said that this is a recipe for national bankruptcy. Earlier this year, however, about 2,000 economists signed a statement asserting that the benefits of action on climate change outweighed the costs and that a well-tailored plan relying totally on market mechanisms could actually improve productivity. A study by the World Resources Institute reached the same conclusion. Both the economists and the study suggested that one mechanism could be a carbon tax that would make coal and petroleum fuels more costly and discourage consumption. The revenue from the tax would then be recycled into the economy in the form of lower payroll and corporate taxes, thus encouraging new investment.

Since a carbon tax is unlikely to fly in Congress, both the economists and the study suggested a more politically palatable option that the Administration has generally embraced — an international emissions-trading scheme that would set a global ceiling on emissions and give each country a national ceiling. The idea behind this scheme is that rich nations who cannot keep within their limits without crippling financial investments will be able to "buy" pollution permits from poorer countries whose economies are so inefficient that even the tiniest adjustments can achieve big reductions in greenhouse emissions.

This mechanism is not without flaws, and it remains to be seen whether everyone can agree on such a complicated scheme before Kyoto. But in the long run Mr. Clinton's greatest problem may be to convince Congress, which must ratify whatever emerges from Kyoto, to take the issue of global warming as seriously as the scientists do. That means taking it seriously himself and getting his Vice President, who has been silent on the issue of late, to speak out. It was Mr. Gore, after all, who asserted in "Earth in the Balance" that global warming "threatens to destroy the climate equilibrium we have known for the entire history of the human race. . . . The longer we wait, the more unpleasant our choices become."

## Prying Open Family Court

"The Family Court is open to the public." That is the first sentence in Chief Judge Judith Kaye's new rules for New York State's Family Court. It may not sound radical — after all, courtrooms are supposed to be open. But it represents a big step forward in the effort to shed light on this traditionally dark corner of the state's justice system.

The Family Court handles some of the court system's most wrenching and controversial cases, ranging from child abuse and custody disputes in messy divorces to domestic violence and violent crimes committed by juveniles. For decades it has been allowed to operate as a closed institution, keeping the press and public outside except in rare cases. Judges have used vague and generalized concerns about the privacy of litigants to shield their decisions, and the performance of the agencies who regularly appear before them, from public scrutiny and possible criticism. Even the court waiting rooms and hallways have been off-limits.

The brief set of rules announced by Judge Kaye last week are the latest in a series of initiatives to improve the accessibility, accountability and effec-

tiveness of the Family Court. In April, Judge Kaye unveiled a plan to begin evening sessions of the court and to open satellite offices to make it easier and more convenient to obtain a court order of protection. Special drug treatment courts are to be created to better address the substance abuse problems often involved in cases of child abuse or neglect.

The goal here is change the court's traditional culture of secrecy and get it to pay attention to the presumption in existing law that hearings and other proceedings ought to be open. When the rules become effective on Sept. 2, judges will still have discretionary authority to decide when to limit public access and to consider privacy concerns and the potential harm that public exposure may visit on children and troubled families.

But they must now make these decisions on a case-by-case basis and state their reasons publicly. This means they will have to think harder before shutting out the public and press. The net result will be to provide more access to an important civic institution.

## Early Bird

When the early bird sings at 4 A.M., the only other sound is the dogs running out their dreams at the foot of the bed. Somewhere on the Atlantic the sun is already rising, but in the Berkshires the sky at that hour is no brighter than tarnished silver, a superior dullness in the eastern windows. The early bird is extremely early, and it seems to have perched on the bedside lamp, so piercing is its call. In the phonetic language birds use to represent birdsong, the early bird says: "Why don't — you get — up? Why don't — you get — up?" But at 4 A.M. it is all too easy to drift back to sleep. Soon the early bird seems to be saying, in dreamlike fashion: "Guess what — you've just — won! Guess what — you've just — won!" It is worth putting on some clothes and going to find out.

It is 44 degrees outside. The grass is wet with dew. Breath hangs in the air almost as quietly as Jupiter in the southern sky. The early bird, a nesting robin by the sound of it, is stationed in the boughs of a pine across the road. The clarity of the robin's call is a measure of the silence. It will be a windy day,

the trees full of their own noises by afternoon, but for now their stillness enlarges the scale on which this solo bird performs. When the robin pauses for a moment, it is possible to hear everything in the world, because there is almost nothing to hear.

Winter mornings hinge on just a change in light without much change in sound. But a summer morning when the sky first glows is a cathedral of anticipation. The choirs that Shakespeare had in mind are neither here nor ruined, only silent, until one by one, and then all in a rush, the birds fill in. It was never quite so clear before this morning's walk that song is an attribute of light. The birds understand it perfectly. A finch begins to call in a lazy, staccato pulse, the rhythm of an inept seamstress on an old-fashioned Singer. A cardinal starts to speak the air with his voice. Down at the foot of the grape arbor, a cowbird suddenly fizzes and pops. The canopy of trees is answered by the understory, and the tall grasses in the eastern field fill with birdsong too. One by one, the birds add depth to the horizon, until at last there is room for the sun to rise.

## Don't View Vietnam Through a Political Prism

To the Editor:  
Michael Lind's June 19 Op-Ed article on Vietnam and its lessons contains the all-too-typical flaw of attempting to view a complex episode of history in simple bipolar categories of liberal versus conservative.

Those of us who protested that war more than 30 years ago knew even then that this simplistic approach to the principles of foreign policy was wrong.

While Mr. Lind is correct that foreign policy must always remain in the hands of the Government and not the military, he fails to articulate the interests or values that should guide that policy.

Would there have been a Vietnam War if this country had supported the principle of self-determination, first in 1945 and then in 1956 when Ho Chi Minh was poised to become the President of a unified and maybe even a Socialist Vietnam? Has this country still not learned the place that self-determination has in the evolution of nations?

Mr. Lind's liberal and conservative boxes may be convenient categories, but are useless guides to the lessons for future policy that must stand on principle and not the rough-cut pragmatism that such simplistic approaches inevitably produce.

VICTOR M. GOODE  
New York, June 19, 1997

## Hanoi Changed Course

To the Editor:  
It is worth recalling, in connection with Michael Lind's "Back to Vietnam, and Its Myths" (Op-Ed, June 19), that a beginning had been made in 1962, based on the successful British experience in Malaya, with a program ("strategic hamlets") to separate the Vietcong from their sources of supplies and recruits. The costly alternative strategy chosen by Gen. William C. Westmoreland was forced by the changed circumstances of 1965.

Hanoi, faced with the choice of abandoning its campaign to unify Vietnam under Communist rule or switching from guerrilla war to conventional war, chose the latter. In the 1968 Tet offensive, Hanoi sacrificed the National Liberation Front military forces. The "overwhelming advantage" Mr. Lind says the United States enjoyed in conventional

war, however, had largely disappeared by the time of the hard-fought offensive of 1972, and was nonexistent at the time of the 1975 sweep to victory.

The irony is that Hanoi's post-1965 strategy went against every doctrine of guerrilla war, including the North Vietnamese strategist Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap's "people's war."

North Vietnam's Prime Minister, Pham Van Dong, himself had rejected the idea of annexing the South by military conquest when he told HARRISON SALSBURY, on Jan. 2, 1967,

that it would be "stupid, criminal." Clearly, the search for "the real lesson of Vietnam" is far from ended.

ARTHUR J. DOMMEN  
Bethesda, Md., June 19, 1997  
The writer is a former foreign correspondent in Vietnam.

## Hearts, Minds and Wills

To the Editor:  
Rather than debunk myths, Michael Lind's superficial analysis of what went wrong in the Vietnam War (Op-Ed, June 19) overlooks the real reason the United States lost the war: the will of the Vietnamese people, who perceived the United States as yet another foreign invader.

Mr. Lind suggests that the war might have been "won" if the United States had followed Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge's "long war with low casualty" approach instead of Gen. William C. Westmoreland's "arsenal of Armageddon" tactic.

No matter how the United States had conducted the war, it could never have won the hearts and minds of the people — especially while propping up a series of corrupt, ineffectual Vietnamese "leaders." The lesson of the American experience in Vietnam is not that the United States must learn how to "wage limited wars effectively," but that it must have the knowledge and wisdom to know when it is wrong to conduct any war at all.

THOMAS R. MILLER  
Oakland, Calif., June 19, 1997

## U.S. Army Was a Mess

To the Editor:  
Michael Lind is wrong in saying that the United States would have had an "overwhelming advantage" in a conventional war in Vietnam (Op-Ed, June 19).

By the late 1960's the United States military was in disintegration. It was a conscript Army of those who could not get into college or the National Guard. Drug abuse and racial discord were rampant. Lower-grade officers (myself included) were leaving in droves. The upper echelons of command had no concept of what the Army had become. To become engaged in a protracted land war in North Vietnam would have been a disaster.

LEONARD SCHWARTZ  
Lafayette Hill, Pa., June 20, 1997

## Communism Thwarted

To the Editor:  
Michael Lind's retrospective, "Back to Vietnam, and Its Myths" (Op-Ed, June 19), like other recent analyses, fails to cite one important issue.

In the overall scheme of the cold war, the Vietnam War was a substantial factor in the fall of worldwide Communism. Communist expansion in Southeast Asia was thwarted.

President Richard Nixon was able to widen the split between China and the Soviet Union, a ploy that did much to reduce the threat of Communist hegemony in both Eastern Europe and Asia.

In the scheme of things, those Americans who died in Vietnam contributed to the demise of the Soviet Union.

H. MICHAEL SARKISIAN  
Sacramento, Calif., June 19, 1997

## Big-Town America

To the Editor:  
I shall forever keep in my wallet a clipping of "Guess What City Looks Like America" (Week in Review, June 15), ready to show inhabitants of my small hometown in Oregon when I visit. They want to know why I have forsaken my roots there and chosen the den of alienation that they perceive New York to be.

Their town is gutted; gone are the hardware stores, bakeries, diners, grocery stores and pharmacies. They need to drive miles to strip malls. They cannot remember an era when you could have your shoes spit-shined on the sidewalk, or tip your hat to virtually every person on the street. They are forever insulated within their cars.

ROMAN SCOTT  
Brooklyn, June 17, 1997

## Deaf Ears in Ireland

To the Editor:  
Your call for an end to the use of plastic bullets in Northern Ireland (editorial, June 18) is welcome. Their use has been condemned by the European Parliament, Physicians for Social Responsibility and other groups. The victims of these deadly bullets include not only the 16 killed but also the dozens who have been maimed.

However, your call for Britain to turn a deaf ear to Sinn Fein after the deaths of two Protestant police officers undermines the peace process. Five Roman Catholics were killed in the past year, but no such appeal was made to end talks with Protestant groups.

ANDY SOMERS  
President  
Irish-American Unity Conference  
Washington, June 19, 1997

## College Entry Shouldn't Depend on Test Scores

To the Editor:  
You may be surprised to learn that the president of the world's largest educational testing organization agrees with President Clinton's assertion, in his June 14 commencement address at the University of California, that we must not use college admission test scores as the sole yardstick of individual merit (front page, June 15). He expressed his concern that reactions to affirmative action programs could lead to an overreliance on standardized college admissions test scores.

There are those who insist that test scores can be used alone as a color-blind way to rank people from "most qualified" to "least qualified." That is a misrepresentation of what tests can and cannot do. Individuals differ in their performance on various meas-



Rob Shepperson

ures of qualification; no single measure can stand alone.

Standardized tests can be made fair, but they provide information limited to particular skills and subject matter. The diversity of talent that colleges should be looking for is too great to let a few narrow measures carry the weight of such decisions.

NANCY S. COLE  
Pres., Educational Testing Service  
Princeton, N.J., June 18, 1997

## Too Rich for Medicare, O.K. for Rent Control

To the Editor:  
I am confused! The Senate Finance Committee has approved an increase in the Medicare deductible of the elderly with incomes above \$50,000 (front page, June 19).

My befuddlement arises from the use of the term "affluent" to describe these people, while last week I was regaled with arguments and editorials stating the necessity of protecting "middle-class" people with incomes of \$175,000 from rent destabilization.

To whom can I turn to learn why a young person with an inherited apartment in Manhattan and an income of \$175,000 is needy but an elderly person with high medical expenses and a \$50,000 income is well off?

NORMAN SHIREN  
Ossining, N.Y., June 19, 1997

## Subsidizing the Senate

To the Editor:  
When senators get sick, they have the privilege of seeing physicians at Walter Reed Army Medical Center at no cost, so they are not affected personally by the proposed increased Medicare deductible pay-

ments by elderly citizens who earn more than \$50,000 a year (front page, June 19).

If lawmakers were treated the same as ordinary citizens, perhaps they would not be in favor of such sweeping changes to the Medicare system.

DAVID M. BACHMAN  
Washington, June 19, 1997

## New Education Czars?

To the Editor:  
Newt Gingrich and Ward Connerly ("Face the Failure of Racial Preferences," Op-Ed, June 15) ridicule the District of Columbia school system. Since Congress ultimately controls the District's budget, I propose that it seize control of its schools and make Mr. Gingrich and Mr. Connerly the education czars. Let's see what these great educators can do.

Within two years they will be calling for the programs they have been wanting to slash: welfare, Medicaid, school aid and perhaps even midnight basketball.

I. MILTON KARABELL  
Philadelphia, June 16, 1997

## Three-Fifths Clause Didn't Define Humanness

To the Editor:  
Russell Baker's June 17 column pronounces a popular misconception regarding the three-fifths clause arising out of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 in Philadelphia, where the United States Constitution was designed. The central issue at that time was not the defining of a percentage of "humanness" in slaves but rather the apportionment of power between the North and the South in the House

of Representatives.

The South was already disproportionately powerful because of the two Senate seats assigned to each state regardless of population, and the North understandably was worried about an undue Southern political tilt if the South were allowed to count slaves for representational purposes. The emotionally charged phrase used in the North to describe the South's position was "slave power."

As with so many things political, the North and the South compromised by counting each white person as one human being and each slave as three-fifths of a human being for purposes of House seat apportionment as well as for state tax contributions to the Federal Treasury. With that compromise, the seeds of future conflict between the North and the South had been planted.

DAVID H. ZISSER  
Sausalito, Calif., June 18, 1997

## Insulin's Discovery

To the Editor:  
Karl E. Meyer, in "The Genius of Scotland" (Editorial Notebook, June 15), furthers a timeworn injustice in crediting John Macleod with the discovery of insulin. It has long been established that insulin was actually discovered by Frederick Banting, a young surgeon, and his assistant Charles Best, a medical student.

Dr. Macleod, the Scottish-born chairman of the physiology department at the University of Toronto, merely gave Banting laboratory space in the summer of 1921, and then shared credit (and the Nobel Prize) with Banting when the validity of the discovery became apparent.

MILTON R. OKUN  
Canton, Mass., June 15, 1997

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مكثان الفصل



Essay

WILLIAM SAFIRE

Politics in Israel

TEL AVIV You think Yasir Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu don't trust each other? You think Ehud Barak, the opposition Labor Party's new top man, and "Bibi" don't trust each other?

Those fierce feelings are as nothing compared with the depth of distrust felt for one another by Bibi and almost all the longtime leaders of his own right-wing coalition.

Yet maybe not so clever. The waltz-out of Meridor upset the one Cabinet member Bibi cannot afford to lose: Natan Sharansky, whose party of immigrants has seven votes in the Knesset. Should the short, balding former Soviet dissident decide to take a walk, Bibi's Government would fall.

And Sharansky is plenty sore. Not only were Bibi's promises to his constituents broken, but the promise to clear appointments — such as ambassador to Russia — through a Meridor-Sharansky filter was ignored. He has one foot out the door: "Bibi takes us for granted. Because I am his friend, because I share his political vision, immigrants have to suffer?" He no longer trusts his friend and — no stranger to dissent — won't accept coalition discipline in parliament.

When the irate Sharansky boycotted last Friday's Cabinet meeting, Bibi got the message and — mindful of his friend's own worries about Mafia-connection smears — showered the absent Sharansky with more power to review appointments, the source of so much Netanyahu grief so far. That takes him past the current flap.

Why have I taken the American reader — interested mainly in Israel's "peace process" — through the delicious, back-biting minutiae of Israeli right-wing politics?

My purpose is to illustrate what happens when one voter-friendly political leader dares to try and turn a parliamentary system, built on the British model, toward a presidential system adapted from the American constitutional model.

Combined with a turn from Israel's semi-socialism, that's a wrenching systemic change. People who deride his personal ambition do not realize how ambitious is his goal. Bibi's animus toward the establishment that launched him is a weakness. His relish in defeating it in detail is self-indulgent, the mark of the sore winner. Because his manipulation is so transparent, his spinning falls short of deft democratic deviousness.

He may fail. Israelis may decide that a greater concentration of executive power and diminution of splinter-party power is not right for them. Or they may be waiting for a leader who inspires more trust.

But if Netanyahu fails in this arena, "he fails while daring greatly," in Theodore Roosevelt's words, and adversaries foreign and domestic will never think of him as one of "those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat." □

'Out the ground-floor window.'

Benny Begin, high-principled son of Menachem Begin, bailed out with a blast after the Hebron partial pull-out. Moshe Arens, Bibi's longtime mentor who was frozen out the minute Bibi gained power, calls the trust factor his former protégé's "character flaw."

Last week, the internecine warfare escalated with the induced resignation of Finance Minister Dan Meridor, a moderate Likudnik "prince" respected by intellectuals and the media, who had shown lukewarm support for Bibi during the ordeal of the "Bar-On affair."

After a year of wincing whenever he heard the Prime Minister say, in English, "How can we control the spin?" Meridor was glad to be able to erase his wimpy reputation with a gutsy, dramatic departure. As Arik Sharon neatly put it, "Dan leaped out of a ground-floor window."

Netanyahu surely knows that Sharon trusts him as little as Meridor does. Exactly a year ago, after Sharon's help with the religious vote helped put him in office, Bibi tried to double-cross Arik with a minor post, and then had to create a ministry when friends of the white-haired lion of Likud threatened a revolt.

But now Bibi needs Arik's far-right influence again, and has — at this writing — slotted him into Meridor's empty Finance post. Clever maneuver: Out goes the irritating centrist on a policy pretext, and into that slot goes the hard-liner whose straight talk is trusted by rabbis and Arabs.

Hong Kong and False Alarms

By Chas. W. Freeman Jr.

WASHINGTON Back in 1984, when Britain agreed to return Hong Kong to China in 1997 and China agreed to keep it as "50 years at least," Deng Xiaoping remarked that Hong Kong would not change much over that period but China would. Eventually, China would become so much like Hong Kong, he implied, that there would be no significant difference between the two.

The Hong Kong Deng had in mind was economically libertarian but politically authoritarian. By 1984, Britain had given their little part of China for more than 140 years. To that point, they had shown no inclination to temper their benevolent autocracy by letting Hong Kong Chinese have a role in the politics of the place.

The colony's governor appointed the members of Hong Kong's Legislative Council, insisted on his right to approve public gatherings, scrutinized the local press for evidence of lese-majesté, and sometimes threw editors in jail for objecting to British rule.

As 1997 approached, however, Britain had a change of heart about the merits of democracy in Hong Kong. British negotiators convinced Beijing that, although Britain had not done so, China should institute a significant degree of democracy there. In 1989, Beijing and London solemnly agreed that, within a year of the July 1 transfer, Hong Kong people would for the first time elect their Legislative Council.

But Chris Patten, the last British Governor, decided to jump the gun by staging elections in Hong Kong in 1995, two years before the July 1, 1997, bandover. However poorly the elections squared with Britain's agreement with China, the action

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was understandable, given the apprehensions raised by China's ruthless suppression of the peaceful uprising in Tiananmen in 1989.

The Chinese insist that, notwithstanding what they regard as British perfidy, they will honor their word and sponsor new elections next year. Most people in Hong Kong clearly believe them. The stock and real estate markets there are booming. Still, Britain's decision to alter the rules unilaterally could be used by Beijing to justify its own deviations from the Sino-British accords after it reasserts its sovereignty over Hong Kong.

Had Governor Patten stuck to the letter and spirit of the accords, legislators appointed by him would have worked with his Hong Kong Chinese successor, Tung Chee-hwa, to set the rules for elections in Hong Kong.

Instead, on July 1 China will carry through on its threat to dismiss the "illegally elected" legislature. A provisional legislature put together by China will replace it. Legislators appointed by China rather than Britain will determine how their successors are elected in 1998.

The shape of democratic institutions in Hong Kong matters in no small measure because, so far, Deng has proved right. Since 1984, China has become a great deal more like Hong Kong. (Hong Kong, too, has changed, but not to resemble other parts of China.)

There is no inherent reason that Hong Kong's powerful influence on China should not continue after July 1, or that its influence should be limited forever to economic rather than political liberalization.

Despite the unpromising beginning wrought by British actions and Chinese reactions, there are grounds for optimism. Chinese missteps in Hong Kong would be self-sanctioning, and China knows it.

If press freedoms are significantly curtailed, Hong Kong's role as a regional media center will wither; The Asian Wall Street Journal, Interna-

tional Herald Tribune, CNN and others will find a more congenial base for their operations. (There is a reason they are in Hong Kong rather than Singapore.) If Chinese inter-

China knows that missteps now would carry a high cost.

ference or corruption saps the Hong Kong economy of its legendary vigor, its business elite will leave for Australia, Canada, the United States or other countries, where most have already established a right of residence.

If the 1998 elections are a sham, the reaction in Hong Kong and abroad will severely damage the investment climate. The security of the Hong Kong dollar will be in doubt. Capital will go elsewhere.

Beijing understands all this. That's why it is a good bet that China will live up to its pledge that "Hong Kong people will run Hong Kong with a high degree of autonomy." The greatest threats to Hong Kong, in fact, probably don't come from China at all.

On July 1, thousands of foreign reporters and dozens of camera crews will be in Hong Kong to watch the change of sovereignty. In politics, as in particle physics, observation of an event can change and define it. The reporters will be in Hong Kong looking for trouble. (Their editors are not sending them there to report good news.) That level of demand for trouble is likely to induce someone to supply it. — Hong Kong could suffer irreparable damage from reporting that makes a photogenic but minor incident a misleading symbol of its future under Chinese rule.

Then there are the actions of the United States. The relationship be-

tween Hong Kong and China is symbiotic. Hong Kong's business elite is now much more worried about a fatal ricochet from the current fusillade of American potshots at China than it is about what China might do to it after July 1. Hong Kong would be the main victim of a decision by the United States to deny China normal trading status. American politicians, suffering from apparent "enemy deprivation" and calling for a new cold war with China, unnerve Hong Kong more than they do Beijing.

To continue to prosper, to evolve toward a more democratic society and to be a catalyst for accelerated change in China, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China will need three things from the United States.

It will need policies that reflect sustained American concern for its well-being and seek to bold Beijing to its word. It will need sympathetic support as its politicians bargain with Beijing over the electoral system to take effect in 1998. But, most of all, it will need the security and confidence that only a stable and improving American relationship with China can provide. □

Journal

FRANK RICH

Better Never Than Late

Not content to deliberate endlessly over how to stamp out the national epidemic of flag desecration, Congress has come up with another bright idea: a bill officially apologizing for slavery. Though opposition to this gesture has made strange bedfellows out of Jesse Jackson (who called it "meaningless") and Newt Gingrich ("a dead end"), Bill Clinton is already hedging about it, a few Congressmen are calling for reparations, and the debate could easily eat up the full year of the President's promised race initiative.

Why not just cut to the chase, and have Strom Thurmond deliver the apology right now?

The bipartisan, all-white Congressmen sponsoring the apology mean well. But as Eric Foner, the Columbia University historian who wrote the definitive text on Reconstruction, says: "At the end of the Civil War, the slaves didn't want an apology. They wanted substantive change in the way things were — change in some land, and you can keep the apology." If Congress wants to apologize, it might start with its own transgressions, from Willie Horton-inspired campaign ads to its persistent inability to address the inner-city meltdown that is the most intractable legacy of slavery and its bastard offspring, segregation, today.

But this would require substance, not symbolism, and when it comes to substance about race and poverty, both parties would rather play to the gallery. The G.O.P. focus on ending affirmative action is a hit in the polls, so never mind that the party with a Congressional majority has offered

Congress moves against slavery.

teachers-union bashing in lieu of action to deal with the root of all ills, falling schools in grades K-12. Nor have the Republicans found a plausible substitute for affirmative action that might win over the only three major figures in the party with credibility on race — Colin Powell, Jack Kemp and the lone black Congressman, J. C. Watts — all of whom favor a just reform of affirmative action, not its abolition without a net for the poor.

Mr. Clinton, meanwhile, has taken hits for what cynics regard as a public-relations racial policy: a call for a national conversation, the appointment of yet another blue-ribbon commission and town meetings that may fade as quickly as the volunteerism summit in Philadelphia. In fairness, he should be given the year he's asked for, and the benefit of the doubt. But you don't have to be cynical to have lots of doubts.

Candid conversation about race — as opposed to the P.C. homilies of Mr. Clinton's San Diego speech — is easier decreed than had in a country that has already repressed memory of the stark racial gap revealed by the polar black and white reactions to both O. J. verdicts. As for actions, Mr. Clinton took seven months to fill the top job for civil-rights enforcement in his

own Justice Department. At the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, there is now a backlog of 75,000 discrimination cases. And Mr. Clinton has little beyond rhetoric to offer the nation's cities, either.

No one doubts the President's empathy with African-Americans. But empathy won't get anyone a job, housing or education. "The problem with Clinton," says Roger Wilkins, the author and Johnson Administration civil-rights official, "is he's like somebody who says I owe you some money, and I really want to pay you, but I had to stop by the gambling casino on the way to your house."

Since big-government schemes for addressing social welfare are politically taboo, Mr. Wilkins says that if he were President, he would have convened the country's best mayors to identify their "biggest problems and biggest successes" in dealing with the crises of race and poverty in their own cities. These mayors — of all races and both parties — are on the front lines; every day the most creative and committed of them are trying out "real ideas" on "real people"; their proposals for replicating their successes nationally and for targeted Federal funding to help do so would have the credibility that Washington programs do not.

But the President we do have — and his political adversaries — seem inclined to deal with the abstract rather than the concrete. If a year from now there is nothing to show for their efforts but a repeal of affirmative action and a loftily written Presidential report, they will truly have something to apologize for. □

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THE ARTS

# Air Hercules Joins Disney's Pantheon of Pitchmen

**A**CCORDING TO LEGEND, Zeus, married to Hera, misbehaved one night with the mortal wife of Amphitryon, king of Thebes. Result: Hercules.

The Disney version has a different take. In the studio's latest animated film, the frenzied and cynical "Hercules," the title character springs from the twin sources of Myth and Avarice. The myth can be seen in references to ancient Greece. The avarice derives from an epochal discovery Walt Disney made back in the 1930's: if you hustle, you can make as much money selling toys based on your characters as you can from the film itself. Maybe more.

The first deal set up by Walt's in-house marketing division was for the licensing of Mickey Mouse ice-cream cones. Ten million of those were sold in the first month. Since then, nurseries of the world have overflowed with representations of Disney mice, ducks, dogs, cats, dwarfs, princes, subaqueous beauties and other wonders. Yet with all the merchandising, animation remained Walt Disney's lifelong passion. (He once confessed, "I love Mickey Mouse more than any woman I've known.")

The impresario couldn't draw with

### The creators of Mickey Mouse are lampooning their own product, but want you to buy, buy, buy.

much panache, couldn't write dialogue or compose music or lyrics. He was a naïf and a right-winger, biased against blacks, Jews and homosexuals. His taste could be vulgar, and his self-importance was notorious ("This will make Beethoven!") he is supposed to have said when he happily appraised the Pastoral section of "Fantasia").

But Walt rightly regarded animation as an American art form, and he maintained the highest technical standards in the business. Indeed, the director Chuck Jones recalls that during the 50's, when he and the other overworked animators at Warner Brothers were producing the great Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck comedies, the Disney employees "were slaving away at art."

"It never occurred to us," he said, "that Warners and Walt were in the same business."

But by the time of Walt's death in 1966, other forces had crowded animation out of first place in the Disney empire. Now the prime sources of revenue were nature documentaries, live films like "Mary Poppins" and, of course, the vast and artificial universe of Disneyland. For decades after, animation fell into low repute as schlock companies took over the profitable arena of Saturday morning television. To be sure, the Disney studio still offered an occasional featureless feature, like "The Rescuers." Yet it was not until the Disney family was out and the outsiders Michael Eisner and Jeffrey Katzenberg were in that high-quality animation was revived.

The renaissance began in 1988 with "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," a lively collaboration between Disney and Steven Spielberg's Amblin studio. Then, on its own book, Disney produced a far more influential work, "The Little Mermaid," with a score by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken. More than any other feature, this one quite literally took the play from New York and brought it to the Coast.

By the late 80's, the most important theatrical blockbusters were being forged by foreigners. Ashman fought back. He sensed that audiences in the United States were still hungry for the kind of big, made-in-America show in which, as he put it, "the characters sing about what they want." In "Mermaid," the title character sat on a rock and voiced her yearnings, while Sebastian the Crab jauntily replied, Calypso style, "Under da sea/Darling it's better/Down where it's wetter/Take it

from me." Audiences and critics wore their palms out applauding, and the new Disney cast its shadow across the globe. The Broadway musical had found a new home.

From Find Your Inner Mermaid, and Find Your Inner Crab, the writers turned to a less complicated theme in "Beauty and the Beast." Here Katzenberg, then top gun in the mouse academy, expressed dissatisfaction with some early footage of the heavy. He summoned the chief animator, Andreas Deja. The boss "put up his feet on the table and just talked," Deja recalled.

"He said the theme of the movie was, Don't judge a book by the cover," he added. "My job was to do something bold with Gaston so that he looked like a hero but was committing and evil."

Deja kept his villain handsome but added some connivance around the eyes and allowed a smirk to play around the mouth. The film employed the talents of performers like Jerry Orbach and Angela Lansbury, theater veterans who knew how to sell a song. The score contained many delights. And the story, based on a fairy tale in the public domain, pleased many and offended only the kind of purists who disliked "Pinocchio" back in 1940, the year the Italian Ministry complained that the little wooden kid "easily could be mistaken for an American."

With the next smash hit, "Aladdin" (1992), I found myself asking, in chorus with much of the rest of the audience, what is this film really about? The answer: It was about an hour and a half of excellent, if frantic, shtick by Robin Williams, along with a high style borrowed from the elegant lines of the theatrical cartoonist Al Hirschfeld. But that was all it was about.

The Disney facade was made nearly impregnable by the film's huge financial profits: \$217 million at home and abroad, plus the revenue that came in when 254 million copies of the videotape were sold, not to mention the income from toys and clothing. But insiders knew that all was not well in the Enchanted Kingdom. Katzenberg, given great credit by the news media for Disney's resurgence, had begun to grate on his boss, and he and Eisner acrimoni-



"The Hunchback of Notre Dame"

ously parted company.

While the disgruntled ex-employee and his new partners, Spielberg and David Geffen, announced plans for their own animation feature, "Prince of Egypt," a full-length retelling of the story of Moses, Disney went on to produce the remarkable "Lion King" in 1994. Strangely enough, its very maturity, including the death of an elder lion, tended to frighten critics more than it did children. Here, I think, Disney was right and the naysayers wrong. The film stands on its own today, a tribute to the institution of the family and to patriarchal responsibility.

But, alas, having valorously confronted matters of life and death, Disney seemed to suffer a loss of nerve. "Pocahontas," the most politically correct project to be seen outside the Smithsonian, advanced the real maiden's age by about 10 years, turned her into a Native American Barbie and Captain John Smith into a Ken doll and hypocritically pushed its P.C. message in song.

Gazing at the money-hungry British imperialists, Pocahontas treats her beloved: "Come run the hidden pain trails of the forest/ Come taste the sun-sweet berries of the earth/ Come roll in all the riches all around you/ And for once never wonder what they're worth." This from a company that has its plastic toys made in China.

What was this film about? It was about the fact that Disney could still



Hercules is the latest in a long line of Disney movie characters who offer both a moral message and unlimited marketing opportunities.

offer a hit tune. "The Colors of the Wind," and deal yet more merchandise, as evidenced by the enthusiastic displays of toys, T-shirts and caps in its emporiums.

Disney's next animated feature, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," seems to me a catastrophic turning point in the studio's approach. Besides deriding religion, it also lampooned its literary source, naming the gargoyle Victor, Hugo and Laverne. What child could possibly understand this allusion to the Andrews Sisters? Was it put in to amuse their parents? Hardly: polls tell us that those people tend to confuse World War II with the Pleistocene Epoch. Their grandparents? Possibly, but what percentage of the audience were they?

No, it seems far more likely that the writers and animators were merely amusing themselves, kidding the original with winks and nudges, as if to say, "We know what we've done is gilded junk, but you know that we know it's junk, so, like, it's post-modern irony, right?"

With "Hercules," the animators and writers have again taken the low road, this time at breakneck velocity. In Disney's 35th full-length animated feature the classic source is buried beneath a cascade of anachronisms and self-mockeries. To be sure, the film boasts outstanding vocal talents — James Woods, Rip Torn, Danny DeVito and many others. And Ralph Steadman's free-wheeling design incorporates friezes, Olympian majesty and Hellenic uniforms circa 500 B.C. But these seldom alleviate the sense of hyperthyroidism and pervasive vulgarity.

"Hercules" opens with a reading by Charlton Heston, full of sonorous dignity, immediately interrupted by muses caterwauling "the gospel truth" about an individual who "put the glad in gladiator," thereby going "from zero to hero." That is the last evidence of Heston or sonorous dignity.

**A**FTER A brief period as a superbaby playing with little Pegasus (I can see the plastic toys rolling off the assembly line even now), Hercules is abducted from Olympus by the imps Pain and Panic (more toys), operatives of Hades, ruler of the underworld. Adopted by some poor farmers, the tot abruptly develops into a muscular youth of great promise but no direction.

So far, this demigod bears a spiritual resemblance to the other lost young souls from the old Disney factory: Pinocchio, Bambi, Cinderella, Mowgli, the lion prince. But those protagonists had credible difficulties and real growing pains. Hercules' only trouble is his strength: with some awkward missteps he brings down an agora, pillars and all, infuriates the townspeople and runs off to find himself.

En route to his place in the Larousse encyclopedia, Hercules is seduced, sidetracked, taunted and tempted by the likes of the 30-headed Hydra ("who put the gory in allego-

ry" would be appropriate here); Megara, a Barbie with big hair and a bigger wardrobe; an Olympic trainer, Philoctetes ("Call me Phil"), and the hooded Hades himself (are these great figurines or what?). Ultimate, with brute strength, some trickery and a last minute and totally unconvincing uplift of heart and soul, Hercules triumphs. He even gets the girl, by becoming a human instead of a god, like his father.

As with "Hunchback," it seems fair to ask what "Hercules" is about. Tom Schumacher, executive vice president for feature animation at Walt Disney, has stated that "fundamentally, this film is about the idea of strength, of who you are and what character is."

"It also," he said, "deals with the notion of what celebrity is, what pop culture is, what it means to be popular."

So it does. It says that a steroid body will get you noticed, that you can foil the opposition with a technicality and that when you get really famous, folks will buy anything with your name on it.

Who are these messages aimed at? Small children? I hope not;

they'll be terrified by the scenes of Hades, in which dead souls float in a ghastly maelstrom, as well as by the various loud and violent monsters. Furthermore, the festival of anachronisms (Hades chortles about his hostile takeover bid for Olympus; Thebes is portrayed as the Big Olive) are bound to whistle far over their heads. Older children will understand the references but not their ultimate and depressing significance. For if Disney has aimed to kid the toga off an ancient legend, the jape has backfired, big time.

Everything that sinks must also converge, and on the way down Disney has finally met Warner Brothers. The latter studio recently produced "Space Jam," making a travesty of its best cartoon characters. A Warner executive admitted to me that the film was "merely a hanger for playthings we sell in the Warner store," and the most acute criticism I heard came from a boy who complained afterward that "Bugs Bunny wasn't in the movie, just someone playing Bugs."

"Hercules," with far superior film technique, is every bit as shameless. In the most telling moment in the

movie, the hero becomes a celebrity after a series of brave deeds. Overnight his name is on everyone's lips and on an emporium designed to look just like a Disney Store. Go ahead, the filmmakers seem to be saying, call us avaricious. We got there before you.

That they did. But at what cost? You can thumb your nose at the Arabian Nights, a French novel, even a Greek icon. But when you lampoon your own product, you're playing a mug's game.

Right now professional animators can sense that despite the hype and hoopla about Disney's part in the resurgence of New York's 42d Street, especially the refurbished New Amsterdam Theater, where Hercules had its premiere a week ago, the Disney formula is running out. It is only a question of time before critics, then ticket buyers, begin to ask, who put the greed in ingredients? □

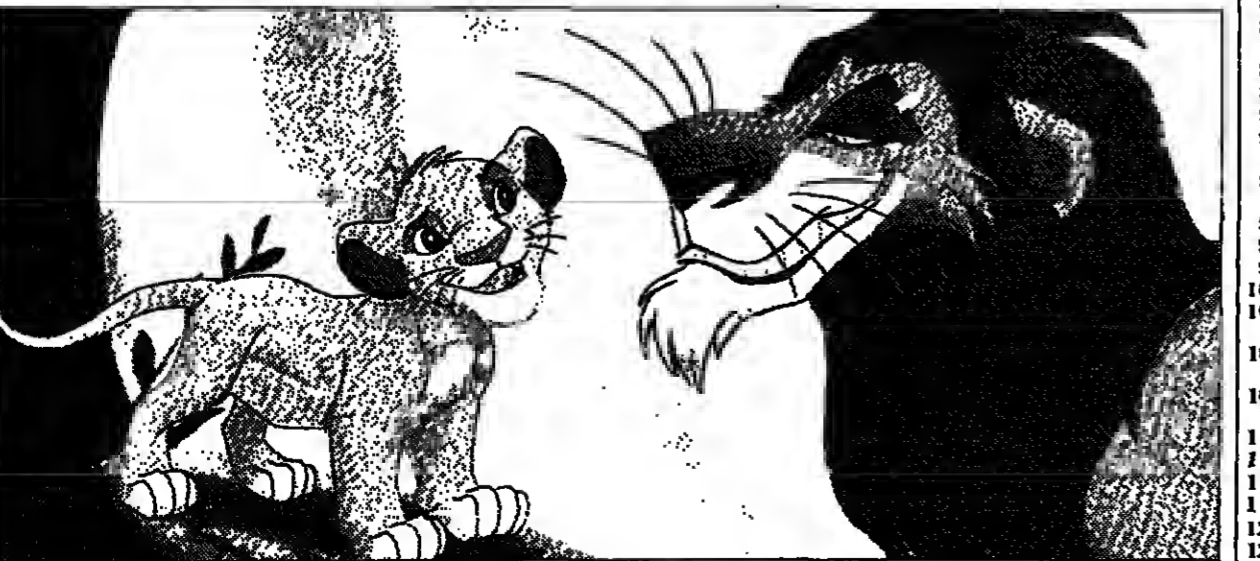
Stefan Kanfer's book "Serious Business: The Art and Commerce of Animation in America from Betty Boop to 'Toy Story'" was published recently by Scribner.

### FULL-LENGTH FEATURES

BY MATT GAFFNEY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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Simba and Uncle Scar in "The Lion King" — The film is a full-length retelling of the Moses story.

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مكثان النحل



# Who named the Sephardim "Ashkenazi?"

## A rose is a rose by any other name. But an Ashkenazi is not necessarily an Ashkenazi at all. Larry Derfner discovers the origins of the most common surnames in Israel

Why are so many Sephardi Jews named Ashkenazi? Because their ancestors came from Ashkenaz (medieval Germany and northern France), and when they migrated to the Balkan countries in the 16th century, the Sephardi Jews there called them "Ashkenazi," a name which lived on even after they "assimilated" into Sephardi society through marriage.

Ashkenazi is the 20th most common surname in Israel. Explanations of the origins of the 200 most common Israeli names, from Cohen to Nahmani, make up Avraham Ariel's just released *Sefer Hashemot* ("Book of Names").

The history of these names illustrates the history of the Jewish people, and tells the story of how they were displaced around the globe," said Ariel.

A retired merchant seaman who says he is "addicted to research," Ariel went through Jewish encyclopedias, population records, other books on Jewish names, and interviewed Israelis, discovering along the way a number of peculiarities. "For instance, the name Weizman [No. 165] is known as an Ashkenazi name - it means 'grain dealer' in Yiddish. Yet it's also a fairly common name among Moroccan Jews, but they took it from the name of a Berber tribe that lived in the desert of southern Morocco," he said.

The names Edri (No. 19) and Deri (No. 141) come from the same source - a city named Edrei, which, in biblical times, was located in what is now Jordan. "The Jews left Edrei and settled in a town in southern Morocco, probably in the first century BCE. The new town became the cradle of Jewish life in Morocco, and



They named it Dara'a after their old hometown of Edrei. The names Edri and Deri went on from there," said Ariel.

The main historical lesson he learned was "the dominance of the Sephardi names," and with it the dominance of the Sephardim in Jewish history. "Doing the research gave me an inferiority complex about being Ashkenazi," said Ariel, smiling. (His family name was Glembofsky, taken from a shtetl in Poland.) "When my ancestors were raising goats in the tsar's empire, those who are today often derided as *frenkim* [a derogatory term for Sephardim] made the greatest contribution to Judaism since the Talmud, and in fact managed the world," he said.

Registry listed 123,431 Cohens, Ariel writes. Second were the Levys, at 73,687. Then came a sharp drop to Mizrahi, with 23,897 namesakes, with Peretz, Biton, Daham, Avraham, Friedman (the most common strictly Ashkenazi name), Azulal and Katz rounding out the Top Ten. In interviews with Israelis, Ariel found that most had either no idea or the wrong idea of their names' origins. "I would ask people named Maimon [No. 54] where the name came from and they would say, 'Maimonides - the Rambam,' from the 12th century. I would tell them there are graves in Morocco with the names Maimon going back to the fourth century BCE," he said.

AT THE end of last year, the Interior Ministry's Population

### The Top Twenty

These are the most common Israeli surnames (as of the end of 1996, according to the Interior Ministry's Population Registry):

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Cohen, 123,431 namesakes | 11. Malcha, 12,226   |
| 2. Levy, 73,687             | 12. David, 10,946    |
| 3. Mizrahi, 23,897          | 13. Amar, 10,458     |
| 4. Peretz, 20,458           | 14. Gabbai, 10,364   |
| 5. Biton, 19,612            | 15. Ohayon, 10,317   |
| 6. Daham, 14,329            | 16. Haddad, 10,171   |
| 7. Avraham, 14,302          | 17. Yosef, 9,951     |
| 8. Friedman, 12,868         | 18. Ben-David, 8,938 |
| 9. Azulal, 12,708           | 19. Edri, 8,715      |
| 10. Katz, 12,287            | 20. Ashkenazi, 8,653 |

### EARTHLY CONCERNS

## Nature's magic recycling agent

By DVORA BEN SHAR.

Duckweed is a most unimpressive aquatic plant. It's nothing more than a flat green glob floating on the water with a clump of thin white hair-like roots dangling from it. But its importance to the environment is far more impressive. In fact, it is proving to be one of the two most efficient plants for cleaning up sewage effluents.

As world populations burgeon, particularly in the cities, the streams of sewage water swell to such a degree that experts fear that soon conventional sewage treatment will not be able to handle the load. These hi-tech systems depend on thousands of miles of collection pipes and channels, emergency outlets, gigantic processing tanks, turbine engines and a continuous supply of energy to keep everything moving. Add to this the complex chemical monitoring units that are needed to process facilities, each of which handles tens of thousands of cubic liters of wastewater every day.

As technology grows increasingly expensive and energy sources more limited, it has become almost impossible to repair or upgrade existing facilities in even wealthy



Treatment plant for Gush Dan wastewater: Purifying sewage water is becoming increasingly expensive. (D. Rosenblum)

countries, let alone build new ones in poorer countries. Yet it's imperative to treat this vast amount of sewage water for the sake of the environment. Moreover, the recycled water is a matter of life or death in many places where it supplies the principal source of water for agriculture.

Experiments have shown that duckweed can play a vital part in purifying water to a level that is suitable for growing crops. The raw

sewage is first channeled into large ponds for sedimentation where all coarser matter settles to the bottom. This sludge can later be chemically treated for sanitary purposes and used as fertilizer. The supernatant water is then moved to a second pond where it is oxygenated. At this point, anaerobic organisms (those that live in an airless environment) die and aerobic bacteria that thrive on oxygen break down a large portion of the organic material in the

water. The water then passes into a third pond where it is seeded with duckweed. From this point on, the only thing needed for further purification is sunlight and air.

The floating duckweed reproduces at an amazing rate, and soon the entire surface of the water is a solid carpet of little green leaves. A planting the size of a human thumb will develop enough new plants to cover six dunams in 55 days, under optimal conditions. In

fact, reproduction is so rapid that there is often an oversupply of duckweed which can be raked from the surface with simple techniques and used as a high-quality cattle food (either fresh or dried and used as a component in concentrated cattle food).

Another water-purifying plant is the water hyacinth, which is even better at removing nutrients from sewage water. Originating in China, it was introduced to the US by a returning missionary in the 19th century. It thrived so well in the southern US, that the state of Florida spends several million dollars a year just dredging the water hyacinths out of the waterways. Unfortunately, almost all varieties of this beautiful purple-flowering plant are useful only where the weather is constantly warm. In cold weather, it becomes dormant or dies. Water hyacinths are nevertheless widely used for sewage water treatment in California and other parts of the southwestern US.

But the hardy duckweed is native to almost every part of the globe, and a local strain that has adapted to the ambient weather conditions can almost always be found.



### Home Front

## Bamba: 1, Mom: 0

By Allison Kaplan Sommer

It's not easy to admit that you've been defeated by a snack food. But I feel strong enough to make that confession. I've been beaten by Bamba. For the unlightened, Bamba is far and away the most popular snack product in Israel. Forget about potato chips, pretzels, and other such fare. Bamba leaves them in the dust.

For years, I have failed to see the attraction that this particular treat possesses. In the past, I would describe the phenomenon to recent arrivals to the country in a derisive tone. "A Bamba," I would say, "is this puffed-up little corn thing with the consistency of styrofoam. It's like a Cheeto back home, except a little less crunchy and a little more soggy. And get this - instead of flavoring it with tangy cheddar cheese, the little sucker tastes

fruit onto his high-chair tray. "Look at the poor kid," hubby complained. "Cheerios are much too small for him to grasp. And the fruit just slides out of his hand. Why don't we give him some Bamba? They're just the right size for him to hold and chew on."

But I held firm. No Bamba for Eitan. "Did you know," I asked my husband, "that peanuts are one of the most highly allergenic foods? Do we want to play around with his health?"

But I forgot to mention my stand to my babysitter. And she was deeply shocked when I reacted negatively to her proud announcement that she had fed Bamba to Eitan. "I didn't know that you could be allergic to Bamba," she said. "All the babies eat it. I figured it had to be good for them. I took her aside and explained

### A discovery that the bag of Bamba was empty would send a panicked parent hurrying to the nearest market or kiosk, like some kind of drug addict rushing to get their fix.

like peanut butter. Can you believe it? Disgusting."

What I found most repellent about Bamba was how mothers and fathers, clearly brainwashed by the corporate machinations of its manufacturer, seemed to stuff it into the mouths of their preschoolers at a frightening rate. A discovery that the bag of Bamba was empty would send a panicked parent hurrying to the nearest market or kiosk, like some kind of drug addict rushing to get their fix. They were inescapable: at every shopping mall, at every park, there they were, those little brown pellets that looked like the droppings of some giant bird.

Now don't get me wrong: I knew that my children would never be hothouse creatures fed only home-cooked organic fruits and vegetables. I'm as fond of convenience food as anyone else. But I thought that I had my red lines, and that certain local child-rearing customs crossed those boundaries. I vowed I would never make a chocolate spread sandwich and call it lunch. And I swore that I would not allow my kid to become a Bamba addict.

I first realized that I had a tough road ahead when my son Eitan's favorite video featured not one, but two commercials for Bamba, starring an annoying little cartoon baby with a saggy diaper whose first three words are, "Ima, Abba, Bamba!" (Mommy, Daddy, Bamba!).

My husband joined the pro-Bamba campaign when I first started introducing Eitan to the concept of finger foods. I proudly sprinkled healthy, whole-grain Cheerios and chunks of

to her gently, that she, who lived in Moscow until six years ago, was not wise to the plots of the evil capitalist consumer conspiracy the way I was. The Bamba bag, I pointed out, is designed to lull parents into believing that this junk food is somehow nutritious, trumpeting how many vitamins they inject into it, and listing their ingredients as natural corn, natural peanut butter, natural vegetable oil and fat, natural salt, natural spices. Like I should be glad they don't use artificial corn and fake salt?

And what's so great about being natural? Arsenic is natural. Does that mean it's good for the baby? But this was a battle I was destined to lose.

My downfall came at a backyard barbecue when I plunked nine-month-old Eitan down on a blanket with the other kids. Before I knew it, he made a beeline for one of the little plastic bowls of Bamba scattered on the ground. He grabbed one in his hand and crunched away, bappy as a clam. Now, obviously, if he had been snacking on arsenic, I would have snatched it away from him. But I found it impossible to deny him this relatively innocent pleasure.

Ever since, I have been allowing him to partake of reasonable amounts of Bamba. I have to admit it, he likes the stuff. And any food item that keeps a baby happily occupied for the amount of time it takes for me to eat my dinner like a civilized human being or have an adult conversation, is really hard for me to resist. Any item, that is, except for those chocolate-spread sandwiches. One has to draw the line somewhere.

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## BUSINESS

in brief

### Gov't: No cut in industrial incubators

The Chief Scientist's Office, a division in the Industry and Trade Ministry, has no plans to reduce the number of incubator projects, a spokesperson said, in response to a report in *Ha'aretz*. Rina Pridor, manager of the office's incubators division, said she has no plans to close any of the high-tech laboratories. Israel's 26 incubators support 200 projects and employ 800 workers. "We currently have the right number of incubators to handle the number of ideas," Pridor said. "If the number of ideas increases, perhaps we will open new incubators and if the number of ideas decreases, perhaps we will reduce the number of incubators." The incubator division's budget for 1997 totals NIS 110m., 10% more than in 1996. *Jennifer Friedlin*

### Overseas tour guiding licensing canceled

From next week, Israeli tour leaders accompanying groups abroad will no longer have to be licensed by the government. The decision to open the field was taken by the Knesset Economics Committee in February. Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav said Israel was the only country in the world that requires tour leaders to have government certification. *Haim Shapiro*

### Discount in regional banking forum

Bank Discount will represent Israeli banks in the Mediterranean Bank Network, an organization of bankers from Tunisia, Turkey, Italy, Slovenia and Malta. The MBN was established in 1996 to encourage trade activities and investments between the member nations and to strengthen the interbank information infrastructure to improve the opportunities and services provided to the banks' customers. *Jennifer Friedlin*

# Treasury: At least NIS 2b. cut in '98 budget

## Foreign currency reserves surpass \$17b.; foreign debt stable

By DAVID HARRIS

It is already clear that the 1998 state budget will be cut by at least NIS 2 billion, a Finance Ministry source said yesterday. Responding to media speculation that a NIS 4b. cut already has been agreed on within the ministry's budget department, a ministry spokesperson said that discussions on the matter have yet to be concluded, "but it is clear that the cuts will come across the board."

For fiscal '98 the government has set itself a budget deficit target at 2.4 percent of gross domestic product, compared to the 2.8% of GDP this year. The government will begin discussing the 1998 budget in August. Meanwhile, the budget department has entered discussions once again on an additional cut to this year's budget. During the recent round of

talks between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, former finance minister Dan Meridor, and Bank of Israel governor Jacob Frenkel, a cut of NIS 600m. was agreed upon. This too will be made across the board, according to the Treasury spokesman's office.

The budget department is generally more cautious in making midyear cuts, the source said, pointing out, "After all the ministries already have their allocation and we're asking them not to spend it all."

On the ministerial level, Meridor's departure last week from the Treasury has led to a hiatus in the budgetary decision-making process.

Meridor, more than many of his senior Treasury officials, favored the implementation of an additional budget cut, based on the gap between the actual budget deficit at the end of the first quarter and the government

target at 2.8% of GDP.

Meridor's major reservation was the central bank's continued refusal to substantially lower interest rates in tandem with a budget cut. Now that the bank has reduced the key lending rate by 1.2%, Meridor's successor will have to push on with the implementing the agreed-upon cut.

In the wake of the 1997 cabinet and Knesset budget debates, held last year, the government cut NIS 7.2b. from the budget, which stands at a little under NIS 190b.

Some NIS 5b. was cut from public spending, with the remainder coming from tax hikes.

Meanwhile, the Bank of Israel yesterday reported that foreign currency reserves have reached \$17.5b. and Israel's net foreign debt stood at \$20.37b. at the end of the first quarter, a slight rise on the \$20.34b. registered at the

end of the 1996.

This figure takes into account Israeli assets abroad. When these are removed, the gross foreign debt totaled \$48.94b., a \$0.93b. increase in the figure as of December 31.

The key net figure has been steadily shrinking since the introduction of the austerity package of 1985.

Israel's foreign currency reserves increased during the first two weeks of June by \$1.1b., reaching \$17.5b., according to the *Globes* financial daily.

The central bank has been engaging in massive foreign currency purchases during recent weeks, in an attempt to weaken the shekel, in line with the dictates of the so-called diagonal mechanism.

Last week that mechanism was altered, in the aftermath of the events which led to Meridor's resignation.

## Tadiran opens Moscow office

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Tadiran Telecommunications, a subsidiary of Tadiran Ltd., has opened a representative office in Moscow and is planning to open another one in St. Petersburg, the company announced yesterday.

"The decision to open an office in Russia stems from the increased demand created by Tadiran's activities in this market and represents an important milestone in our expanding presence in the Russian market," CEO Haim Rosen said in a statement.

The company first began marketing its systems to Russia four years ago.

The company announced the new office at Exponov Sviaz '97, an international telecom exhibition recently held in Moscow.

During the exhibition, Tadiran Telecommunications signed agreements totaling \$5.7 million, including a deal to provide Uralsviazinform, one of Russia's largest government telecom companies, with \$2.7m. of its MultiGain 2000 systems.

The system allows telecom providers to increase the number of subscribers it can maintain on their existing infrastructure.

Tadiran also signed agreements with Udmurttelecom and Lipetsktelecom for a total of \$3m.

The deals enhance the list of Tadiran's activities in Russia. Tadiran has a development agreement with LONIS, the Leningrad R&D Institute of Telecommunications, to develop local adaptation of existing systems.

Expansion into overseas markets is part of Tadiran Telecommunications' plans to offset a decrease in local business caused by a drop in orders from Bezeq.

## Jordan okays Israeli use of Akaba Airport

By SARA ABDALLAH

AMMAN - Jordan said yesterday it has agreed to allow Israel to use Akaba airport to ease pressure on the airport in Eilat.

Jordan's Civil Aviation Authority said in a statement that the agreement was reached at a meeting between Jordanian and Israeli officials in Israel last week.

Israel Airports Administration spokesperson Sara Erez said that a

joint committee had agreed that experimental flights should take place, carrying both passengers and cargo.

However, she said that no date had been set for them to actually begin.

The talks centered mainly around the issue of security, said Transport Ministry spokesman Avner Ovadia, who added that because of the nature of the talks, he could disclose no details.

More than 150 international flights land at Eilat each month and an unspecified number of

civilian flights use the nearby air force base at Uvda.

Fewer than 60 planes a month land at Akaba, which the CAA says is the only airport in southern Jordan which enjoys international runway standards.

The CAA said a trial period would start soon before a final agreement on landing rights was made.

Jordan and Israel have been discussing the possibility of building a joint Akaba-Eilat airport.

The US Trade and Development Agency last year concluded a feasibility study on the project, which is estimated to cost \$100

million, but officials said there are disagreements between the two sides on the construction and function.

Officials in Amman said Israel is insisting the airport be confined to international flights. The Jordanians want it to serve local flights as well.

They said there were also differences over where the terminal should be located - how much of it in Israel and how much in Jordan - and on staff numbers. (Bloomberg)

Haim Shapiro contributed to this report.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

## IMF's Fischer: Gov't concealing problems

By DAVID HARRIS

Israel's political economy is a mess and the government is guilty of concealing budgetary problems, Stanley Fischer, first deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said yesterday, at a Bank of Israel conference on Inflation and Disinflation.

Fischer said he believes the government is using inflation "for some purpose," but declined to say what that purpose might be.

Speaking to reporters during the conference, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel announced there will be no interest rate announcement today, following last week's 1.2 percent cut in the central bank's key short-term lending rate. There had been media speculation that a second cut would be announced, taking effect on July 1.

Concerning the broader contexts of the cost of living, Frenkel told the conference that the country has still to begin the serious process of disinflation.

To facilitate effective state monitoring, the governor urged the government to approve the introduction of formal inflation reports, as practiced in various developed economies.

A country like Israel can beat inflation, according to Fischer, who pointed to successes across

the world, particularly in Chile and Bolivia. "There is no magic formula, [but] most of these countries have used an exchange-rate anchor," he said.

In each country that has successfully suppressed inflation fiscal strength has been important, with budget surpluses being recorded in some cases, said Fischer.

Israel could do well to follow the recent disinflation experiences of Spain, according to Jose Vinals from the Bank of Spain's monetary department.

The central bank in Spain has pushed annual inflation down from some 20 percent in the 1970s and 1980s to the 1.5% mark, below the target for 1998 of 2%.

The setting of inflation targets has had a favorable effect on countering inflation in Spain, with its central bank believing that it is possible to do so with relatively low interest rates, as long as there is help on the fiscal front - that is, a reduced budget deficit. Furthermore, the legal mandate granted to the central bank to achieve inflation targets was invaluable.

Lower inflation and tight fiscal policy, according to Vinals, do not have a negative impact on employment. Spain's experience with lower inflation has seen a decrease in unemployment and an increase in growth.

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**Additional participation pre-conditions:**

A. Participation in the tender is also subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for transactions with public bodies).

B. The Israel Electric Corporation reserves the right to allow a bidder who has not provided some required certificate, permit, license, or any other document, to make good this omission, within a period of time to be fixed by the Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Project Management Dept., 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt demonstrating payment (non-refundable) of the cost of the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address or by telephoning 04-861-861-5484. Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused at the offices of the Project Management Department, room 710, 7th floor at the Pal-Yam Building in Haifa.

The Electric Corporation has no obligation to accept the lowest bid or any of them.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tender Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

The Electric Corporation retains the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

02/26/97

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Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

**Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (20.6.97)**

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BANKNOTES		Rep.
	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.7057	3.7855	3.7345
U.S. dollar	3.4105	3.4856	3.4270
German mark	1.9781	2.0070	1.9418
Pound sterling	5.8191	5.7088	5.8688
French franc	0.5383	0.5348	0.5301
Japanese yen (100)	2.9785	3.0286	3.0584
Dutch florin	1.7555	1.7838	1.7704
Swiss franc	2.5884	2.4987	2.5905
Swedish krona	0.4415	0.4472	0.4432
Norwegian krone	0.4688	0.4774	0.4739
Danish krone	0.5188	0.5270	0.5231
Finland mark	0.5287	0.5374	0.5332
Canadian dollar	2.4549	2.4898	2.4780
Australian dollar	2.5576	2.5988	2.5776
S. African rand	0.7394	0.7688	0.7723
Belgian franc (10)	0.8572	0.8727	0.8699
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8088	2.8521	2.8306
Italian lira (1000)	2.0178	2.0502	2.0349
Jordanian dinar	4.5108	4.6878	4.5877
Egyptian pound	0.9700	1.0000	0.9718
ECU	3.8653	3.8277	3.8967
Irish punt	5.1932	5.2425	5.1983
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5409	2.5787	2.5632

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel.

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# John Hancock settles class action suit for \$350m.

**By MICHAEL ELLIS**

BOSTON (Reuters) — John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. hit by an investigation of its sales practices, on Friday settled a class-action lawsuit for \$350m.

The settlement will offer policyholders who bought insurance from 1979 to 1996 a "wide array of relief and benefits," John Hancock said.

"Some customers, although still getting significant value from their policies, may not have received all they had hoped for," Hancock Chief Executive Stephen Brown said in a statement. "Through this settlement, we have the opportunity to recognize and rectify that situation."

The Boston-based insurance company, the ninth-largest in the US, also said it was in talks with the Massachusetts Division of Insurance and regulators from other states about allegations of deceptive sales practices.

"We've been talking about them with the [insurance] commissioner's office and regulators from a number of other states for many months now, and we will continue to do so until this is resolved," Hancock said.

The Massachusetts Division of Insurance said it recently began a broad investigation of Hancock's sales practices and was seeking company documents, on disciplinary actions against its agents over the past 18 years.

Michael Goetz, a spokesman for the state insurance division, said the investigation was in the early stages and covered the same allegations as in the class-action lawsuit.

Specifically, the suit alleged and officials were investigating a deceptive sales practice known as churning, or twisting, marketing

insurance as an investment and policies that include so-called vanishing premiums.

"We've made a very substantial request of them to provide us with the names of agents they have disciplined," Goetz said.

The agency also has requested sales marketing literature and procedural manuals for training agents.

"The purpose of that is so that we can go, through it and see whether it bears out allegations of unfair conduct," he said. "They've indicated a willingness to cooperate with our investigation."

The investigation of John Hancock is just the latest shadow cast over the insurance industry. The Prudential Insurance Co. of America could end up paying more than \$2.5 billion to policyholders to settle class-action lawsuits alleging that the company engaged in deceptive sales practices.

Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., New York Life Insurance Co., and Allianz Life Insurance Co. of North America all have been involved in similar actions in the last two years.

"Over the years, the company has taken a number of major steps to crack down on inappropriate sales activity as well as individual agents who tried to operate outside the rules," Hancock's Brown said.

The company said the settlement will have "no material impact" on its financial health.

Under the deal, which is subject to approval of the US District Court in Boston, Hancock will offer policyholders cash contributions, low interest loans, reimbursement for some charges, and other relief.

Policyholders also may choose to have their claims considered through an alternative dispute resolution process, Hancock said.

## COMMODITIES ROUNDUP

### Gold hits 4-year low

**By MICHAEL ZWEDNER**

Gold futures registered new life-of-contract lows on Friday and spot gold, bullion logged its lowest weekly close since 1993. Sources said that because of the lack of involvement by funds, there is still a lot of selling capacity left in this market.

In the physical market, the acute shortage of metal pushed short-term lease rates higher, with one month palladium lease rates seen around 130 percent early Friday and one month platinum around 80%.

August gold closed down \$3.00 per oz. on Friday to close at \$339.40. September silver was down 3.30 cents per oz., at 475.90 cents. The July high-grade copper contract closed down 4.05 cents per pound, at 118.10 cents.

CommStock Trading

## Rush for Hong Kong listings in last week of British rule

**By DONNY KWOK**

HONG KONG (Reuters) — Six companies will make a last-minute dash next week to list their shares in Hong Kong before the territory's return to Chinese rule, hoping to ride a wave of pre-handover euphoria, analysts said.

Hong Kong returns to China on July 1, marking this week the final one under colonial rule.

"They are trying to list before the handover because they want to tap irrational market strength ahead of the handover," said Asia Financial Securities research manager Kinson Au.

Pre-handover euphoria swept Hong Kong share prices to record levels last week and uncertainty about how the market may reopen after the handover has prompted the six to list early, analysts said.

"Merchants banks prefer to have the companies list before the handover because there will be a long market holiday during which the US Federal Reserve will hold its [policy] meeting," said Percy Au-yung, research director at DBS Securities.

The Hong Kong market will be closed on June 30, July 1 and July 2 to mark the handover and the Federal Open Market Committee will meet on July 1 to decide on interest rates.

Analysts said there was a chance US interest rates might rise and this could hurt the market. But after the Hang Seng Index staged its biggest points gain on Friday, advancing 647.87 points, or 4.47 percent, to 15,154.36, analysts said there was enough momentum to see shares move higher next week.

Three local firms and three China-incorporated companies — or H-share companies — are due to list this week, bringing the total number of initial public offerings (IPOs) on the Hong Kong bourse to 37 for the first six months of 1997.

The local firms are Fairform Holdings, which is due to start trading Wednesday, and Leading Spirit Corowra Electric Co. and OLS Group, which are both due to make their debuts on Thursday.

The H-shares are First Tractor Co., which is scheduled to begin trading today, Beijing Yanhua Petrochemical Co., slated for trading on Wednesday, and Jiangsu Expressway Co., which is due to list on Friday, the last trading day before the handover at midnight on June 30.

"Apart from First Tractor and Leading Spirit Corowra, the new listings do not appear attractive," said Ricky Tam, senior research manager at Delta Asia Securities.

Analysts said First Tractor should post strong gains because it will be the first agricultural H-

share. Analysts said China's drive to develop this sector should boost demand for machinery.

The company offered 300 million H-shares at HK\$4.50 each in a global float. Its Hong Kong offering of 45 million shares was 296.4 times subscribed.

Analysts believe the popularity of Leading Spirit Corowra's electrical appliances in China will help its debut.

The firm, a spinoff of Leading Spirit (Holdings), issued 393 million shares at HK\$1.00. The Hong Kong offering of 275 million shares was 113 times subscribed.

"Its parent is trading at a P/E [price to earnings multiple] of about 25 times, while the company offered shares at a P/E of about 7.8 times," said Au-yung. "The shares have the potential to edge up closer to the P/E level of the parent."

Beijing Yanhua and Jiangsu Expressway could make tepid debuts due to concerns about the petrochemical industry outlook and a heavy flow of toll road IPOs this year, analysts said.

Beijing Yanhua offered 1.012 billion H-shares at HK\$1.68 and HK\$2.25 each in a global float and Jiangsu Expressway issued 1.22 million shares at HK\$3.11 each.

Local firm Fairform offered 57 million new shares at HK\$1.08 and OLS Group issued 120 million new shares at HK\$1.65.

## TASE ROUNDUP

### Rate cut fails to boost shares

**Mishtanim** 296.91 ▲ 0.18%  
**Maof** 304.06 ▼ 0.48%

**By ROBERT DANIEL**

Shares were mixed yesterday as investors tempered their optimism about recently announced lower interest rates.

The Tase Index of 25 most-traded issues fell 0.48 percent to 304.06 and the Mishtanim Index of 100 stocks advanced 0.18 percent to 296.91.

The Mishtanim is at a record; the Maof set its record of 305.83 on June 18.

"On the one hand, the market made a high move," and people want to lock in some profits, said Asher Sela, trader at Tel Aviv securities firm Eigar.

On the other hand, interest rates — assuming inflation of 10% — now provide returns around 1%, small enough to leave investors "no alternative" to stocks.

Lifting the market early on was the arbitrage in Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., Koor Industries Ltd., and the companies that made up what was the Eilat holding company, said Dror Kraus, investment manager at Koor Investment House.

A prominent loser was Bank Hapoalim, down 2.75% at NIS 7.83. It was the most-active issue, trading

NIS 17.8 million of shares. Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 265.2m. of shares traded. That's 12% more than the month's daily average of NIS 236.3m. Gaining shares rose almost 2 to 1 over losers.

Teva scored 6.5% at 227.46 after its American depositary receipts jumped 7.7% in New York on Thursday and Friday. Discount Investments Ltd. was reiterated "buy" at Sahar Securities; it fell 1.75% to 305.44.

Last Friday, several recommendations were announced.

Blue Square Investments and Properties Ltd. was down 1.25% at 35.44. The supermarket chain was reiterated "buy" at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull.

Shares of Tadiran Ltd. slipped 0.75% to 100.53. The company was downgraded to "hold" from "buy" at Societe Generale.

Israel Discount Bank was reiterated "buy" at Societe Generale. Its shares rose 0.5% to 4.09.

Agan Chemical Manufacturers Ltd. shares fell 2.25% to 93.69. The company was downgraded to "buy on weakness" from "strong buy" at Societe Generale. (Bloomberg)

**DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA**

**ABA** COMPUTER SYSTEMS LIMITED  
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Foreign financial data courtesy of  
**CommStock Trading Ltd.**

Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem

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Tel Aviv: 03-522-8888  
Tel. Fax: 03-522-2000 (company secretary)

**MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES**

LAST	CHANGE
Al Paper Mills	17720.0 2.0
Ashdod	498.0 3.2
Alcoa Israel	571.0 3.1
Alcoa Israel 1	2820.0 0.2
Alcoa Israel 2	21957.0 0.0
Agri	928.0 2.3
Agri	407.0 2.0
Agri	477.0 0.0
Bank Leumi D1	571.0 2.2
Ban	2982.0 0.5
Ban	97.0 2.5
Ban	344.0 1.3
Ban	2375.0 0.0
Bank Leumi D2	545.0 0.3
Bank Leumi D3	5276.0 0.0
Bank Leumi D4	4998.0 3.2
Bank Leumi D5	192.0 0.5
Bank Leumi D6	3750.0 2.3
Bank Leumi D7	106.5 0.0

LAST	CHANGE
LD.R. Holdings	8311.0 -1.7
LDC	1708.0 -0.5
LDI	688.0 2.3
LDI	225.0 -4.3
LDI	21233.0 0.3
LDI	67383.0 -1.8
LDI	4.1 0.0
LDI	1820.0 2.5
LDI	1857.0 1.3
LDI	543.0 0.6
LDI	33738.0 2.9
LDI	28.0 1.1
LDI	245.0 1.7
LDI	98076.0 -1.2
LDI	371.0 1.8
LDI	2448.0 -3.0
LDI	736.0 3.0
LDI	2043.0 4.5
LDI	338.0 -4.8
LDI	2160.0 -0.5
LDI	11983.0 3.5
LDI	543.0 0.8
LDI	6164.0 -1.0
LDI	2038.0 0.0
LDI	1144.0 1.5
LDI	201.0 -0.5
LDI	1144.0 1.5
LDI	1028.0 -0.5
LDI	543.0 3.2
LDI	1882.0 2.0

LAST	CHANGE
Clear Fashion	15293.0 -0.8
Packer Steel	8882.0 2.0
Packer Steel	382.0 -1.7
Packer Steel	2448.0 -0.2
Packer Steel	5051.0 0.3
Packer Steel	18714.0 1.0
Packer Steel	92.0 3.0
Packer Steel	30280.0 2.0
Packer Steel	220.0 1.2
Packer Steel	420.0 0.0
Packer Steel	25.0 1.8
Packer Steel	1158.0 1.0
Packer Steel	382.0 0.0
Packer Steel	1025.0 7.3
Packer Steel	774.0 1.0
Packer Steel	1055.0 -0.8
Packer Steel	774.0 1.0
Packer Steel	609.0 0.2
Packer Steel	27481.0 0.0
Packer Steel	152.0 2.3
Packer Steel	22748.0 6.5
Packer Steel	294.0 -0.4
Packer Steel	364.0 1.8
Packer Steel	1584.0 2.7
Packer Steel	1004.0 0.5

\*In percentage points

## Canada, US deadlocked in salmon talks

VANCOUVER (Reuters) — Canada and the US reached a stalemate on Friday in bitter talks aimed at resolving a dispute over how to divide the Pacific salmon catch, but agreed to meet next week to try again.

"There is still a considerable gap between our two positions," Canada's chief negotiator Yves Fortier told reporters after officials from both countries said they had agreed to suspend talks.

The two countries held three days of negotiations this week, their first meetings on the salmon dispute since talks collapsed in acrimony a month ago.

Fortier said he was "deeply disappointed" with the talks because US proposals were not "reasonable or equitable." His US counterpart Mary Beth West also said she was disappointed by Canada's refusal to make an acceptable proposal to conserve Coho salmon stocks.

The two countries have squabbled for years over how to divide dwindling salmon stocks in the Pacific Northwest and several attempts at a settlement have failed. Pressure has mounted for a deal because the summer salmon fishing season gets under way in earnest as early as next week.

"After three days, really nothing has happened," British Columbia Premier Glen Clark told reporters after the talks adjourned. He called for a meeting between Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and US President Bill Clinton, now meeting at the Group of Seven summit in Denver, to resolve the dispute or agree to submit it to arbitration.

"Canada has made historic concessions in this round. Americans are taking advantage of this," Clark said.

He urged "strong actions to demonstrate we are prepared to protect our natural resources from unfair foreign exploitation."

The Canadians angrily walked out of the last round of talks on May 20 in Seattle, saying the lead US negotiator was not authorized to offer a specific catch reduction.

Canadian Fisheries Minister David Anderson said earlier this week that prospects for a deal seemed more promising this time because the lead US negotiator, Mary Beth West, had a mandate to negotiate a compromise.

## WHERE TO GO

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**HAIFA**  
WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, tel 04-8374253.

**MEKOROT WATER CO. LTD. Supply Department**

**TENDERS FOR SUPPLY OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT**

Mekorot Water Co. Ltd. invites companies with appropriate facilities and experience to participate in a tender for electrical equipment as follows:

- TENDER NO. 10/97 - ELECTRICAL MOTORS, 3-PHASE, 3000 VOLT, 50HZ**
  - A. 2 units Hollow shaft motor, rated output 1200 hp, Speed 1000 rpm
  - B. 1 unit Hollow shaft motor, rated output 810 hp, speed 1500 rpm
  - C. 1 unit Solid shaft motor, rated output 1700 hp, speed 1500 rpm
  - D. 2 units Solid shaft motor, rated output 2200 hp, speed 1500 rpm
  - E. 3 units Solid shaft motor, rated output 2500 hp, speed 1500 rpm
- TENDER NO. 11/97 - HIGH VOLTAGE COMPACT SWITCH GEAR**
  - 1 unit high voltage switch gear type SF6 or vacuum, the switch gear includes modular compact cubicles which are to be assembled in one common frame. In addition, there will be an option for supplement of cubicles in the future.
  - Nominal voltage: 24 kV
  - Working voltage: 22 kV
  - Short circuit power: 500 MVA
- TENDER NO. 12/97 - HIGH VOLTAGE SOFT START MOTOR CONTROLLER**
  - A. 2 units soft start motor controller for vertical solid shaft electrical motor, 3kV, 2200 hp, 1500 rpm, for driving water pump. Each controller connected to a single motor.
  - B. 3 units as detailed above but for 2500 hp motor.

The tender documents and inquiry specification can be purchased for NIS 500 (including VAT) per tender (non-refundable) from the Supply Department, Mekorot Head Office, 9 Lincoln Street, Tel Aviv, 2nd floor, room 214. The tender documents may be perused before purchase. Bidders must attach to their bids a bond in the form of an unconditional bank guarantee from a major Israeli bank, for 5% of the total amount of bank guarantee from a major Israeli bank, for a period of 90 days. The quoted price per tender, for a period of 90 days, 1997 and placed in the bids must be submitted by 12 noon (on July 31, 1997) and placed in the tender box in the Supply Department, El Melamed, Tel. 03-623-0578. For additional details please contact El Melamed, Tel. 03-623-0578. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid. Mekorot reserves the right to negotiate with parties whose bids are considered appropriate.

**Meir Kazam**  
Chairman, Tenders Committee

**Jerusalem Post Subscription Sales and Service 177-022-2278**

**Israel electric החשמל**

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase by international tender:

Tender No.	DESCRIPTION	Cost of tender documents, including VAT, (non-refundable)
589635	Contract for the supply of single core extruded cross-linked polyethylene insulation power cables for rated voltage 10kV for cross-section 15000 mm <sup>2</sup> , 1535 mm <sup>2</sup> and 1260 mm <sup>2</sup>	NIS 3217
589663	Contract for the supply of low voltage 0.6/1 kV cable 4x150 mm <sup>2</sup>	NIS 3,217

Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details without prices  
Preliminary Conditions ISO 9002

Stage B - Submission of technical/commercial details without prices  
Preliminary Conditions ISO-9002

**Period of Contract**  
The contract will serve as a framework agreement for a period of two years.  
Options: As detailed in the tenders.

**Last date for submitting bids: July 27, 1997, at 11 a.m.**

**Additional participation pre-conditions:**  
A. Participation in the tender is also subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993. Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 9 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for transactions with public bodies).  
B. The Israel Electric Corporation reserves the right to allow a bidder who has not provided some required relevant documents, permits, licenses, etc. to submit them within a specified time that will be set by the Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Department, 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 8 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-refundable) for the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address by the calling 04-861-6455/4. Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused, Sunday - Thursday 9 a.m.-12 noon, at the above offices or at the Sales Department, 90 Rishon Vignat Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdod Building, entrance C, 1st floor, Tel. 03-525-4679, 03-525-4641.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope and be placed in Tender Box No. 1 in the Pal-Yam Building, Haifa (address as above) by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tender Regulations (Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

The Electric Corporation reserves the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

**GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

**EMERGENCY PHARMACIES**  
Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdor, 670-8660; Baisam, Salah e-Din, 621-2315; Shuaat, Shuaat Road, 581-0106; Dar Al-Dawa, Herods Gate, 628-2058.  
Tel Aviv: Superpharm Ministore, 4 Shaal Hamelech, 696-0106; Superpharm, 40 Einstein, 641-3730. Tel 1 a.m. Tuesday: Pharma Daf Jabotinsky, 125 Ion Givoli, 546-2040. Tel midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 841-3730; London Ministers Superpharm, 4 Shaal Hamelech, 696-0115.  
Raanana-Kfar Sava: Hagal Hayaron, 8 Hershel, Industrial Zone, Raanana, 748-3637.  
Netanya: Trufa, 2 Herzl, 882-8856.  
Haifa: Seif Square, 1 Shalom Alekhem, 823-5064.  
Krayot area: Sabina, 24 Hagelam, Krayot Bialik, 873-5874.  
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 8 Masaki (nr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.  
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ar Mail, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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Beersheva 8274787 Netanya 800444  
Bat Sheva 652133 Pithon Tel 931111  
Dan Region 575533 Rehovot 945133  
Eilat 632444 Rehovot 945233  
Haifa 951233 Rehovot 945333  
Jerusalem 652133 Tel Aviv 548011  
Karmel 995444 Tiberias 678244  
Mobile Inmate Care Unit (MCIU) service in the area, around the clock.

Medical help for tourists (in English)  
177-022-4110  
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.  
Eran - Emotional First Aid - 1201, 1111 (children/youth 546-0738), Rishon LeZion 956-9861/2, Haifa 867-2222, Beersheva 849-4333, Netanya 682-5110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kfar Sava 767-4555, Hadera 634-5788.  
Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-655-5744/5, 24-hour service, confidentiality guaranteed.  
Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-851-4111, 03-548-1133 (also in Russian), 07-837-6310, 08-555-0506 (also in Amharic).  
Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-8191 (men), Jerusalem 625-6558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.  
Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support service 02-624-7676.

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Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (Internal, surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology); Misgav Ladach (obstetrics); Shef Holim (pediatrics, ENT).  
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Peles Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (Internal, surgery).  
Netanya: Laniado.

**POLICE** 100



# Tradition in a country garden

## Wimbledon's new Court 1 is a tasteful blend of old and new

By ORI LEWIS

WIMBLEDON - Some things never change; well, almost never. If the British are well-known as staunch guardians of their tradition, then the powers-that-be at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club (AELTC) at Wimbledon are the champions of keeping up tradition.

Wimbledon is the last major tournament in the world where the players must wear predominantly white attire; it is also one of perhaps a handful which does not allow advertising hoardings around the court.

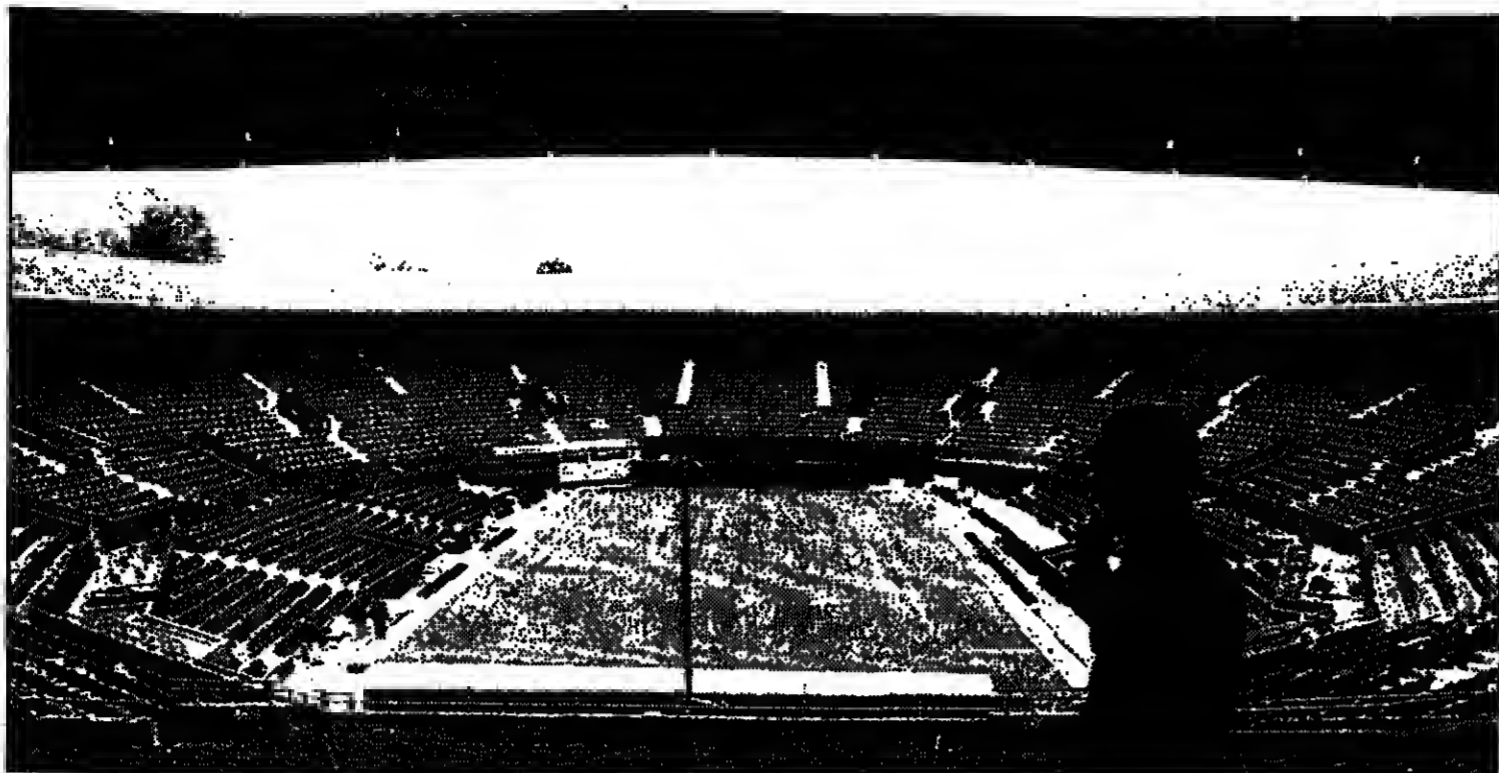
It is pristine white for the players and soothing emerald green for the surroundings, and so it is for the new Court 1 which was inaugurated by the Duke of Kent yesterday.

Once inside the new Court 1, you could be forgiven for thinking the facility had been there for decades. But it's during the approach towards the familiar grounds of the All England Club down leafy Church Road that you suddenly notice that something is very different. It appears as if a huge alien spaceship had landed in the middle of the grounds. It would be a very discreet spaceship, however.

No. 1 court is a part of a three-phase development carried out by the AELTC to keep the Championships up with the times.

The 11th Championships which got under way yesterday (104th for the women) are vastly different from those played even 20 years ago. The number of spectators has soared and their demand for better quality sports facilities has become ever-more intense.

Likewise, the Championships cannot afford to lag behind the other Grand Slam events.



COME YE - New Court 1, shortly after its completion, beckons players, spectators alike.

Despite having changed the appearance of Wimbledon from beyond the gates of Church Road and Somerset Road, the new court blends in wonderfully with the surroundings. The organizers have described their new creation as "Tennis in an English country garden," and even though on English country garden sees 32,000 visitors through its gates every day, the wish to preserve the quintessential character and old-fashioned tradition that is Wimbledon appears to have worked.

The shape of the stadium is similar, although with a capacity of only 11,000, the new structure holds some 5,000 fewer people. The roof around the back parts of the seats is said to make this court lighter than Center Court, although the roof has been designed to give the same shadows around the court as those on its older sister.

While the new Court No. 1 begins its role as a venue of legends, the old court, which was no more than an afterthought affixed onto Center Court, has been reduced to a building site. The area is cordoned off and all

one sees from beyond the barriers is that some of the seating has been removed. But upon closer inspection one notices that the court itself has disappeared and the area upon which the tennis legends of the world once stood is now a pit with a couple of caravans, and some bulldozers who have wasted no time in beginning to reshape another part of the world's most famous tennis venue.

It will take about two more years before the work is completed, and when it is, the organizers promise a gleaming new press center which will surely be the envy of many sporting events. As it is, this is by far the best press facility I have come across.

# Elliott leads Aussie charge

LONDON (Reuter) - Australian left-handed opener Matthew Elliott smacked a spectacular century yesterday as Australia kept up the pressure on England in the Second Test at Lord's.

Although only 17.4 overs were possible on the fourth day following a series of torrential downpours, Elliott took his total from 55 to 112 while Australia advanced from 131 for two to 213 for seven at the close.

They now lead England by 136 with one day's play remaining. Elliott's fighting innings, his maiden Test century, took 242 minutes, came from 180 balls and contained 20 fours. Eleven of his boundaries came in just 54 balls yesterday.

Australia's intentions were clear when Shane Warne was promoted to number four in the batting order after Mark Waugh had been well caught at third man by Devon Malcolm off Andrew Caddick for 33.

Warne lasted only four balls before he was caught without scoring and Steve Waugh also failed to score, falling lbw to Caddick.

Michael Bevan was caught behind for four, also off Caddick, but Ian Healy (13 not out) kept Elliott company as the tall Victorian carried the attack to the England bowlers.

Even though Thursday's opening day was rained off and only 92 minutes' play were possible on Sunday, Glenn McGrath's eight for 38 in England's first innings 77 on Saturday gave Australia a definite victory chance that grows as the players come nearer the final day.

Their batting yesterday showed they believed that they could still square the six-Test Ashes series, provided that the rain holds off today.



Matthew Elliott (Reuter)

Scoreboard on Sunday, at stumps on the fourth day of the Second Test between Australia and England at Lord's:

England, 1st Innings 77	
Australia, 1st Innings (overnight 1st for two)	
Mark Taylor b Gough	1
M Elliott c Crawley b Caddick	112
Greg Blewett c Hussain b Croft	45
Mark Waugh c Malcolm b Caddick	33
Shane Warne c Hussain b Gough	0
Steve Waugh lbw b Caddick	0
Michael Bevan c Stewart b Caddick	4
Ian Healy not out	13
Paul Reifel not out	1
Extras (1b, 3b)	4
TOTAL: 213 runs for seven wickets.	
Fall of wickets: 4, 73, 147, 147, 147, 159, 212.	
To bat: Michael Kasprovicz and Glenn McGrath.	
Bowling: Darren Gough 20-4-82-2, Andrew Caddick 22-6-71-4, Devon Malcolm 7-1-28-0, Robert Croft 12-5-30-1.	
Batting time: 247 minutes. Overs: 61.	

# Krajicek bids for Wimbledon repeat

WIMBLEDON - This is Richard Krajicek's idea of a good time at Wimbledon: One serve and a cloud of dust.

Let others whine about playing - and watching - men's tennis on grass. The way Krajicek sees it, Wimbledon is about serving aces, basing returns and snuffing out rallies in a hurry.

That's how he won Wimbledon last year. And that's how he plans to win again this year, when the tournament opens its two-week run today at the All England Club.

"I understand that if the point goes quick, people think it's boring," he said. "But it can also be spectacular. It's so special. You see a match. You see people competing. It doesn't always have to be a super rally and beautiful to watch. The competing makes tennis worth watching."

Even with big serves and bad hops, Wimbledon remains as compelling as ever, the tournament worth watching even when it turns into a duel of serves on grass.

There are some critics, though, who loathe Wimbledon. They can't stand the speed, the repetition of play.

Someone even asked Krajicek if the place should simply be paved over.

"I haven't heard that one before," he said. "Of course, the grass is part of the tradition. We're only on grass for four weeks on the tour. And yes, the fact that there are a lot of big servers, they have the advantage."

"But if you're a good player, like (Andre) Agassi, you can win from the back," he said. "Of course, it's very difficult. Fast surface, bad bounces, you'll get short rallies."



Richard Krajicek (Reuter)

This year should be no different. Krajicek is the defending champion and No. 4 seed, but Pete Sampras, No. 1 seed and three-time champ, is the favorite among the men. Others to watch include No. 2 Goran

Ivanisevic, No. 3 Yevgeny Kafelnikov and No. 7 Mark Philippoussis, the tour's rising star and an impressive winner at the Queen's Club grass-court event earlier this month.

With reigning champion Steffi Graf sidelined by a knee injury, the women's event is wide open, mirroring the state of a game that is in transition.

No. 1 Martina Hingis has won a title at Wimbledon - in doubles. But she is still trying to establish her dominance of the tour. No. 2 Monica Seles continues to endure serving problems. For No. 3 Jana Novotna, this may turn into a last best chance to finally conquer Wimbledon.

Krajicek knows all about conquering Wimbledon now. When he showed up last year, he was unsung, but hardly unknown. At 6-foot-5 and with a booming serve, there were many in tennis who figured that Krajicek, 25, was tailor-made to win Wimbledon.

But Krajicek apparently wasn't one of those who believed he could win.

"Two big changes happened last year at Wimbledon," he said. "My return of serve had improved a lot. It was always a problem. I would hold serve, but I would not make a break of serve."

"Also, the way I move on grass, that was a problem," he added.

"I'm not one of the lighter movers. I was afraid to slip. When you're afraid to slip, you run more careful. You just don't look natural."

Krajicek decided to become natural. "Now I'm not afraid to fall," he said.

# Els hangs onto Buick lead

HARRISON, New York (AP) - The Westchester Country Club took a slight measure of revenge against South African Ernie Els on Saturday - enough, at least, to prevent him from running away with the Buick Classic after three rounds.

Els, who led for a time by eight strokes, bogeyed out of the rough on No. 13 and out of the sand on No. 16 to come back to the field. His 4-under round of 67 on Saturday was good for a three-round total of 14-under 199 and a three-stroke lead over Jeff Maggert, who had a 66.

Jim Furyk was alone at 9-under 204 following a 2-under round of 69. Robert Damron was at 205 after a 68.

Els' total was one stroke better than the Buick Classic 54-hole record, which he set last year in an eight-stroke victory. He has been under par 13 of the 15 rounds he has played competitively at the Westchester Country Club.

Still, Els could not make it a complete rout Saturday. "I made a couple of mistakes coming in. It was not the best of finishes."

Els, who beat three golfers including Maggert on the final nine of the US Open last weekend at Congressional, is trying to become the first back-to-back, wire-to-wire winner on the PGA tour since Phil Mickelson won in 1995 and 1996.

Highlights of Els' round included an up-and-down birdie after he nearly drove the 326-yard (300-meter) par-4 seventh hole and a two-putt birdie after he drove the 314-yard 10th.

Tiger Woods shot an even-par 71 and was 16 strokes behind Els at 2-over 215. Woods, who had a streak of 11 straight rounds under par starting with the first round of the Masters, has now failed to break par in 10 of his last 11 rounds.



Ernie Els (Reuter)

# Maradona hires Ben Johnson

TORONTO (AP) - Diego Maradona, twice suspended for doping offenses and virtually retired from Boca Juniors, has

hired banned Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson as a \$1,000-a-day personal trainer.

"I want to be the best in the world again," Maradona said at York University on Saturday. "Ben's the fastest man in the world - a powerhouse, an animal."

Johnson, 35, was stripped of his Olympic 100-meter gold medal in 1988 and suspended for two years for using anabolic steroids.

The IAAF banned him for life after he failed another drug test in 1993. A court decision on whether he should be reinstated will come down July 21.

Maradona, 36, was suspended by FIFA for 15 months in 1991 after testing positive for cocaine use following an Italian league game. He also was thrown out of the 1994 World Cup and suspended for having used banned stimulants.

# Kareem of the Krop

Kareem Abdul Jabbar is expected to arrive in Israel, promoting a Streetball basketball championship in Jerusalem. The 3-on-3 tournament, is scheduled to take place in the capital's Safra Square between July 8-10. The games are sponsored by Adidas.

During the three-day event, which is held in cooperation with the Municipal Sports Authority, Safra Square will be outfitted with 16 half-court basketball courts.

A 16-19 year-old tourney is slated for Rabin Square in Tel Aviv on July 30. For further information, telephone 03-5444883.

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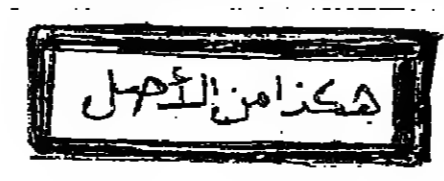
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# NEWS

in brief

### Officials repeat warnings to be careful with fire

Five crews of firefighters yesterday put out a fire near a gas station between Holon and Ashkelon, that is believed to have been caused or made worse by the hot, dry weather. The Fire and Rescue Commission put firefighters on alert and asked the public to be extremely careful with campfires and cigarettes. Firefighters also put out a fire at Har Homa yesterday afternoon. Police said the blaze, which occurred at a construction site, did not appear to have been set intentionally. *Itim*

### Heat wave generates record electricity usage

The Israel Electric Corporation yesterday registered a record high for electricity consumption, with a demand totaling 5,800 megawatts recorded at 2 p.m. By comparison, the high registered on June 22 last year was 4,041 megawatts. The highest consumption recorded all last summer was 4,840 megawatts, recorded on May 12. An IEC official told Israel Radio that it has a capacity of up to 6,160 megawatts, and thus would be able to handle this year's projected demand. *Itim*

### Teachers union cancels strike

Teachers Union chairman Avraham Ben-Shabbat cancelled the strike scheduled for today following a meeting with Education Ministry Director-General Benzion Dell yesterday. Dell also met with National Parents Association chairman Shai Lehman. Dell told them both that despite budget cuts, classroom hours will not decrease and classes will not be overcrowded. The rumors that teachers will be fired are baseless, he said. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### 127 schools given administrative independence

In a revolutionary move, the Education Ministry is to grant 127 schools pedagogical and financial independence, effective September 1. Ministry Director-General Benzion Dell stressed that the project will not adversely affect either parents or pupils from the weaker segments of the population. Meanwhile, the Zippori Center in the Jerusalem Forest is offering a special course to prepare advisers for independently administered schools. It will turn out advisers to help principals adjust to independent administration. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### Agency leaders visiting former Soviet Union

More than 500 members of the Jewish Agency's Assembly begin a three-day visit to the former Soviet Union today. The group will be divided among seven cities - Moscow, Kiev, Minsk, Odessa, Baku, Tbilisi, and Tashkent. They will get a first-hand look at agency programs, meet potential immigrants, ulpan students, summer campers, and parents of youngsters participating in programs here. They will then convene here to discuss a restructuring of the agency. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### Car damaged in grenade attack

Two grenades were hurled yesterday at a car at the Mesubim junction, in an attack apparently related to a business dispute. No one was hurt, but the car was damaged. Several months ago, a grenade was planted in the car-owner's grocery store. The store owner has no criminal record. *Itim*

### Panel: Bann cigarette vending machines

The Health Ministry's advisory committee on smoking has recommended to the minister that cigarette vending machines be banned, and suggested examining the possibility of gradually removing nicotine from tobacco products. Committee head Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri said he endorsed the agreement reached between the US government and tobacco companies for \$368 billion in compensation over the next 25 years. The accord, which must still win Congressional approval before it is implemented, will help Israel demand at least NIS 27b. from local and foreign tobacco manufacturers and importers to cover medical costs of tobacco victims. Benizri said he will soon meet with the health minister and send files on the suit to the State Attorney's Office. *Judy Siegel*

### Mor-Yosef to head Soroka

Prof. Shlomo Mor-Yosef, deputy director-general of the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO), has been named director-general of Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. Mor-Yosef, 46, who studied medicine in Jerusalem, studied oncological gynecology in London. In 1990, he was named deputy director of the Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, and in 1994 took up the management post with HMO. At Soroka, he replaces Dr. Yitzhak Peterburg, who has become director-general of Kupat Holim Clalit. *Judy Siegel*

### Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's Chance draw (17/97) were the nine of spades, queen of hearts, ace of diamonds, and eight of clubs. The results of the second draw (175/97) were the queen of spades, queen of hearts, king of diamonds, and queen of clubs.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Republic of Moldova President Petru Lucinschi speak to reporters after their meeting yesterday in Jerusalem. (Isaac Harari)

## Deals expected with Moldova during president's visit here

**By JAY BUSHINSKY**  
A slew of bilateral agreements are expected to emerge from the working visit to Israel of the Republic of Moldova's President, Petru Lucinschi, who arrived yesterday aboard his personal jet along with his wife and a large entourage of officials and business executives. Since proclaiming its independence and joining the Confederation of Independent States six years ago, Moldova has been trying to upgrade its economy by expanding trade and seeking joint ventures with Israeli firms. Its per capita income in 1992 was only \$1,260, nearly 12 times less than Israel's. Lucinschi declined the pomp and circumstance of a state visit in favor of intensive meetings with Israeli officials and business leaders. There was no welcoming ceremony at Ben-Gurion International Airport and no state dinner was scheduled in his honor.

The eight agreements due to be signed during Lucinschi's stay cover economic cooperation, aviation, health, tourism, investment guarantees, exemptions from visa requirements for holders of diplomatic passports, and scientific, cultural, and educational exchanges. "There is a rich potential for trade between our two countries," said Prime Minister

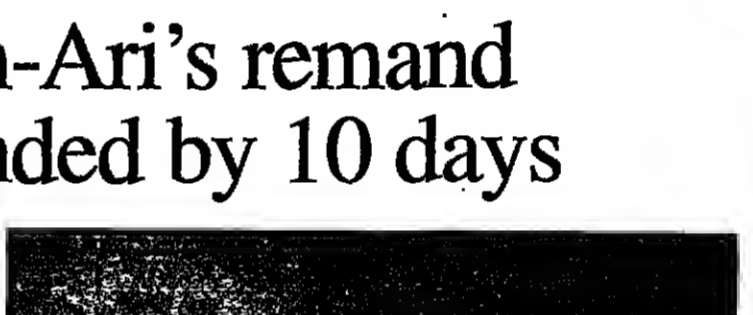
Binyamin Netanyahu's information director, David Bar-Ilan. "The opportunities are virtually unlimited." Informed quarters named the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Avigdor Lieberman, as the moving force behind the Lucinschi visit. They said Lieberman visited Moldova six months ago and was especially interested in the possibility of importing natural gas from there.

### Yishai: Budget constraints limit facilities for retarded

**By RAINIE MARCUS**  
Zvi Ben-Ari (formerly known as Gregory Lerner) was remanded for a further 10 days by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court yesterday, after police provided additional incriminating information against the alleged Russian mafia kingpin. Ben-Ari is suspected of committing an \$85 million bank fraud in Russia, bribing civil servants and public figures here, and violating banking laws. Although police were not prepared to disclose confidential information given to Judge Yeshayahu Shneler, they did reveal that they had found a letter sent by Ben-Ari to certain people while he was incarcerated in a Swiss prison several years ago. The letter asked other alleged members of the Russian mafia to help him escape. Police are worried that certain parties may try to spring him from his lock-up here and that others may try to murder him. Ben-Ari's lawyers argued that when their client was arrested as he was about to board a plane for the US, he was in possession of a return ticket, and intended to return, contrary to police arguments that he was about to flee the country.

### Ben-Ari's remand extended by 10 days

Meanwhile, the police presented a list of seven politicians from the Likud, Labor, and Yisrael Ba'alya parties to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon yesterday. The politicians, including ministers, can expect to be summoned to give evidence starting this week.



Zvi Ben-Ari (left) is escorted into court yesterday. (Israel Sun)

Dror Tamir, had boarded the ship on Thursday and was asked to help. He arranged for the sick sailor to be brought ashore and took him to the naval base in Haifa, where he was examined by a doctor who immediately arranged for his admission to Rambam. Tamir visited Sonmez at the hospital last night, as did UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel, himself from Turkey. "It was lucky that this was caught before the ships left Haifa the following day (Friday). The operation almost certainly saved the man's life," said Goksel. Sonmez, who is expected to be held for at least another week, was also visited by the Turkish Embassy's military attache. The embassy will arrange his return home when he recovers.

### WEATHER

Holon	22-33
Tiberias	22-36
Afula	21-35
Samaris	21-33
Tel Aviv	21-29
Jerusalem	20-33
Beersheba	20-35
Dead Sea	29-41
Eilat	28-43

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. A slight drop in temperature.

### AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Wind
Amsterdam	10	18	rain
Berlin	16	23	rain
Brussels	11	14	cloudy
Cardiff	12	17	rain
Chicago	18	24	cloudy
Copenhagen	11	16	rain
Frankfurt	12	17	rain
Geneva	12	17	cloudy
Helsinki	12	17	rain
Hong Kong	26	29	rain
Jakarta	24	30	rain
London	18	21	rain
Los Angeles	12	17	cloudy
Madrid	18	24	rain
Moscow	11	16	rain
Munich	11	16	cloudy
New York	10	16	rain
Oslo	10	16	rain
Rome	20	29	rain
Stockholm	13	18	rain
Sydney	18	24	rain
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Vernon	15	20	rain
Zurich	10	16	rain

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### Riot may lead Ramle to segregate public pool

**By Jerusalem Post Staff and Itim**  
The Ramle Municipality is considering the possibility of a separation between Arabs and Jews in its municipal swimming pool. Mayor Yoel Lavi admitted that the move is possible, although it may pose a legal problem. It would be necessary to think of a way of carrying out such a separation, he said. A mass quarrel between Jewish and Arab teenagers erupted at the municipal swimming pool on Saturday. An Arab resident of Joarish was stabbed in the foot. The confrontation was said to have started after young Arabs provoked Jewish young women, who alerted their boyfriends. The incident caused unrest throughout the pool area and confrontations between dozens of teenagers followed. Policemen were summoned to disperse the crowd and close the pool. In a reaction to the incident, Miriam Lidor, spokeswoman for the Association for Civil Rights in Israel said that she disapproves of separation and will write to Lavi. She said that ACRIL maintains that acts of violence and public disorder must be dealt with by the proper authorities, but it refuses to accept a solution which would signify a separation between the citizens of the country on the basis of nationality. The unfortunate fact that a few Arab teenagers ran wild in the pool, she said, cannot deny Arab citizens their right to enter public places. A forced separation of bathing days for Arabs and Jews is racist and harms the Jewish and Arab public alike, she said. The racist commentary in the media by the mayor of Ramle causes serious concern, she said. The mayor is responsible for the welfare of his town's residents without nationality distinctions. Expressions such as "the low violence threshold of Moslem Arabs" are unacceptable, she added. ACRIL calls on the mayor to retract his racist rhetoric. Furthermore, it is calling upon him to resolve the tensions between the residents of his town in a way that will do justice to the civil rights of every citizen.

### Quick action by naval officers saves Turk's life

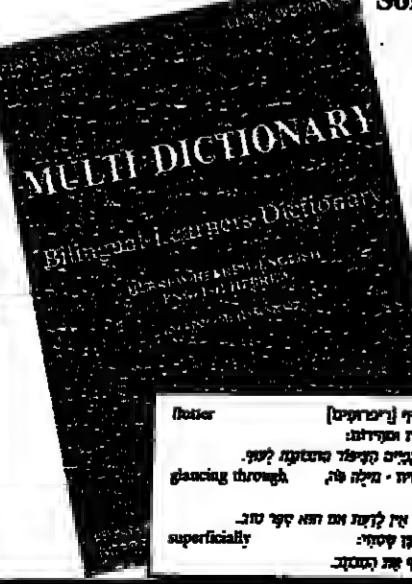
**By DAVID RUDGE**  
Quick action by Israel Navy officers followed by an emergency operation performed by doctors at Haifa's Rambam Hospital almost certainly saved the life of a Turkish navy sailor. The *Jerusalem Post* learned yesterday. Yusuf Sonmez, 21, of Kas, near Antalya, is recovering in the surgical ward at Rambam following the operation that was performed on Thursday night after he had been diagnosed as having a bleeding ulcer. Sonmez was aboard the *Akar* logistics ship, one of five Turkish naval vessels that was in Haifa Port for a rest and recreation visit last week, when he complained of acute abdominal pains. An Israeli Navy liaison officer, Lt.

### Arab youth found dead in Jerusalem

Nasser Fahami, 17, a resident of Shuafat in Jerusalem, was found dead yesterday in a wadi near a construction site in Pisgat Ze'ev. He had been beaten with a heavy, blunt object, police said, adding that the youth had a criminal record. Security forces were stoned as they removed the body from the wadi, and at the entrance to the nearby Shuafat refugee camp the windshield of a Border Police jeep was smashed. The body was taken to the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir. Police said that several avenues of investigation are being pursued, including the possibility that the murder is linked to Palestinian Authority threats against land dealers who sell land to Jews. (Itim)

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